The Pittsburgh Gazette.

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SECOND EDITION

THE FIELD OF POLITICS.

Gov. Wells, of Louisiana, Before the House Investigating Committee.

He Gives a History of the Recent Canvassing of the Returns.

NEW ORLEANS, December 21.—Before the House Committee, at the morning session, T. Madison Wells, President of the Returning Board, testified that in canvassing the returns they compared the Supervisors' reports with the tally sheets of the Commissioners. Where they did not agree we directed, but considered principally the tally sheets. Sent for tally sheets when parties interested in the election asked for them; sent for the boxes of Concordia parish at the instance of ex-Senator Harris; did not know them, don't know whether he had an interest as a candidate at the late election; found on examining the tickets that all the electors had been voted for, but the votes were not properly counted. We counted the tickets and included them in our compilation. The votes omitted were on the Republican side; they did not make a change of the aggregate vote thrown out; will furnish the committee with such statements; can't tell the number of votes thrown for each party without referring to the books; did not consider what party would be affected by the votes thrown out; thinks they threw out East or West Baton Rouge; don't recollect which; declined to furnish the original papers to the committee because they belong to the State; the papers are still in the control of the board. The law requires six envelopes to seal up and send forward by mail. Some returns came by hand and were counted. The returns from Grant parish were not sent by the supervisor. When supervisors' reports are sent they should be accompanied by tally sheets; don't recollect that the law requires the board to canvass from the statement of the commissioners instead of the supervisors; received the boxes from Concordia; they did not come through the supervisors; refused to consider Grant parish because it did not come through the supervisors.

Mr. Jenks—If the supervisor was dishonest enough not to forward the returns, and you had the returns made by the commissioners of election, did you canvass such vote?

Gov. Wells—No, sir. We canvassed no votes not received through the supervisor.

Gov. Wells continued: The law requires that the commissioners of election shall be appointed from both parties, but don't know whether the pole in the State were represented by Democratic commissioners, and do not know that there was any Democratic supervisor of registration in the State; went for ballot boxes in East Baton Rouge, but did not count those boxes, for what was considered a good and sufficient reason. Sent for the boxes; met with the board after going into secret session; can't say whether the boxes from Concordia were received and opened in secret session; don't recollect; don't know that their boxes were being sent for; believe a request was made to send for the boxes of the polls in the parish of Orleans, from which the supervisors made no returns; the board did not consent to send for them; threw out no poll in the parish of Orleans that was returned to the board; the vote was thrown out because if all the polls in the parish were returned, am a decided politician, but would not allow politics to influence me to do anything unjust; did not throw out parishes and polls simply because they gave Democratic majorities; don't recollect that a Republican poll in the State was rejected; did not state to Mr. Frost in 1874 that as too Republicans had the commissioner of election, I had a chance to decide against the Government, that my action on the Returning Board must be governed accordingly. Though the claims of members of my party against the Government amount in the aggregate to about $700,000, I was not influenced thereby in my action. The clause in Tilden's letter saying he would vote such claims as must did not influence my course; am Surveyor of the Port of New Orleans; was on the Board of Returning Officers, but do not think that holding both positions is in contravention to Grant's order that no Federal officer shall hold a State office; do not receive any fixed compensation as a member of the Returning Board, but receive per diem and mileage; never urged the Legislature to make an appropriation for the members of the Returning Board; some of my relatives were appointed, but not to office in 1876; have a receipt book to show when the returns were received, whether by mail or otherwise. Believe the law says the returns shall be made by mail, but did not construe it that way; kept a minute book of all proceedings of the board; no minutes were taken in secret session; they were made afterwards. If I stated to the committee in a letter of the board refusing to give up all papers, that being a State officer I could not part with the records, I did it under a wrong construction of the law. The board filled the vacancy in 1874 caused by the resignation of General Longstreet, 1875 and 1876 to fill the vacancy in 1876 caused by the resignation of Mr. Arrago in 1875. I believe the law says there shall be a Democrat on the board; think it is the duty of the board to fill vacancies, but did not fill the vacancy in 1876 because the board could not agree. Dr. Hugh Kennedy, the gentleman proposed to fill the vacant position on the board, is a gentleman of high standing, irreproachable character and a friend of mine, but the board could not agree on his appointment, and no other name was presented; did not vote on the question, and don't think any member of the board was much opposed to Dr. Kennedy, but in taking over the question we found that we could not agree.

Williams was ordered to send for the minute book showing all the proceedings of the board, and the receipt book showing the date of the reception of returns, and how received, whether by mail or otherwise. The law says the returns must be sealed and forwarded by Supervisors of Registration by mail. It was found when the minute book arrived that it did not contain the proceedings of the secret session, and witness stated that it was the wrong book. Witness took the receipt book and said that it was not the right one, that these were others.

Mr. Jenks, of the committee, read from the state, the other portion of the leaves being torn off, the date of the reception by the Returning Board of returns from the parishes. In seven or eight instances the entries showed that returns had been received part by mail and part by hand. Two or three were marked as received by express, and the greater portion were not marked as being received either by mail, express or hand. When the book had been gone through, witness stated that a map he heard its contents read he did not believe the board had any other receipt-book.

FORTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

SECOND SESSION.

Hewitt's Charge Against the New York Postoffice.

HE FAILS TO SHOW THAT HIS LETTERS WERE OPENED.

WASHINGTON, December 21, 1876.

SENATE.

EQUALIZATION OF BOUNTIES.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN presented a petition of a large number of soldiers of the late war, asking the passage of the House bill for the equalization of bounties. Referred.

PUBLIC DOCUMENTS.

Mr. ANTHONY called up the resolution to print five thousand extra copies of the document compiled by Major McDonald, chief clerk of the Senate, in regard to the count of the electoral votes from 1789 to 1873 inclusive.

HOLIDAY ADJOURNMENT.

A bill was offered by Mr. ANTHONY that when the Senate adjourn on Friday, the 22d, it be to meet on Tuesday, the 26th, and unless otherwise then ordered, when it adjourn on the 26th, it be to meet on the 29th, and unless otherwise ordered, when it adjourns on the 29th it be to meet on January 2d.

The resolution led to a long discussion. It was finally amended to read that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, the 22d instant, it be to meet on Tuesday, the 26th instant, and the amendment was agreed to, with a general understanding among the Senators that the Senate would adjourn on Tuesday to Friday, and from Friday to Tuesday, January 2, 1877, without transacting any business.

THE SILVER DOLLAR.

Mr. LOGAN inquired of the chairman of the Committee on Finance if there was any probability of an early report from that committee on the bill to provide for the issue of silver coin, and to make the silver dollar a legal tender. He said the House within the past few days had taken action on a similar bill, and it was important that the Senate should act soon.

Mr. SHERMAN, in reply, said the Committee on Finance had not yet had an opportunity to consider the subject, or had been delayed somewhat on account of the Silver Commission not having made its report yet. He had been told that the report of that commission would be made soon. He could assure Mr. Logan that so far as the Committee on Finance was concerned the bill could be acted upon immediately after the holidays.

THE COUNT OF ELECTION.

At the expiration of the morning hour consideration of the resolution of Mr. Mitchell authorizing an investigation into the appointment of Cronin as Presidential elector in Oregon was resumed, and Mr. MAXEY spoke at length.

AN IMPORTANT COMMITTEE.

The Chair appointed as a special committee authorized by the recent resolution of Mr. Edmunds to devise means for the proper count of the vote for President and Vice President and, in connection with a similar committee of the House, Messrs. Edmunds, Morton, Frelinghuysen, Logan, Thurman, Bayard and Ransom.

SOUTHERN INVESTIGATING EXPENSES.

Mr. DAVIS called up the report of the Conference Committee on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill to provide for the expenses of the Southern investigating committees. The committee agreed to give each House $25,000 to conduct the investigations ordered.

In the course of the discussion Mr. MORTON said the sum would not be sufficient, but there was an additional demand for the money, and he thought it as well to take the $25,000 now, with the understanding that at a future day more would be asked for.

The report of the committee was then agreed to.

The Chair appointed Mr. Harlan on the Committee on Patents, vice Mr. Johnston on the Committee on Manufactures, thus changing places.

On motion of Mr. DAVIS business was suspended and the Senate then paid its tribute to the memory of Senator Casserly. Appropriate remarks were made by Messrs. Davis, Wright, Withers, Edmunds and others, and as a further mark of respect the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.

HEWITT'S CHARGE.

Mr. PLATT offered a resolution for the appointment of a select committee to investigate the charge made yesterday by Mr. Hewitt that his letters had been tampered with in the New York postoffice. In connection with it Mr. PLATT sent to the Clerk's desk and had read a telegram from Postmaster James, pronouncing the accusation utterly and absolutely false.

After discussion of the resolution, the House refused to lay the whole subject on the table, as proposed by Mr. BUCKNER, and finally, on motion of Mr. SPRINGER, the committee now in New York, of which Mr. COX is chairman, was instructed to investigate the matter.

Mr. HEWITT said the circumstance under which he made the charge is as follows: He said about a month ago he received a letter, the writer stating that he was an employe in the New York postoffice, and that he felt bound to communicate the fact that "Slade's little kettle" was at work on his letters. The only attention which he had felt called upon to pay to this anonymous letter was to observe closely the letters which he received. He had found that a considerable number of them presented the appearance of having been opened, the flaps of the envelops presenting a puckered or corrugated appearance. He called the attention of gentlemen in his office to the fact, and they had been able to pick out two classes of letters, those which had been apparently opened and those that had not been. When he came to Washington he was struck with the fact that the letters received from Boston, Chicago and other points had a perfectly smooth surface on the flap of the envelope, while frequently letters from New York presented that corrugated appearance. He had happened to show to Parke Godwin, a friend of the postmaster, one of these envelopes, and asked him if it had not been opened. Goodwin said it looked so. He had then asked Goodwin to see Mr. James, in whose integrity he (Hewitt) had entire confidence, and whose valuable services should be retained through all mutations in politics, and to mention the matter to him. He (Hewitt) wished the House to understand he did not think Mr. James would be or could be a party to any tampering with the letters. He had shown two letters one morning to the gentleman from Maine (Hale), and had pointed out the corrugated appearance of the envelopes. Mr. Hale had told him he ought to call the attention of the House to the matter if he thought his letters were tampered with, but it would be a waste of time, from the nature of the case that it would be hardly possible to bring forward any other evidence than the facts that the letters had this appearance. He had, therefore, not stated it as a fact, nor did he now state it as a fact, but he had that suspicion which amounted to the belief that his letters had been opened, and he had acted on that belief by sending by express special letters, and requesting the gentlemen who had such special letters to forward theirs by express. It may be thought he was taking unnecessary precaution. It might be his eyes deceived him, and it might be that an investigation would be able to get at a fact of which he had no knowledge. He had no objection, of course, to a committee of investigation, but he thought it probable that no good would come of it, and that no important facts would be discovered. Hence he had not been willing to put the country to the expense of an investigation. But if it was the wish of the House or of the gentlemen on the other side in favor of one, he should cheerfully and unhesitatingly be had thrown into the waste basket the anonymous letters, as he did with all anonymous letters. He received from ten to twenty a week, therefore its handwriting could not be identified. So, too, with the envelopes. They had been thrown away, and it was a remarkable fact that none of the letters received by him to-day presented any appearance of having been tampered with.

Mr. KAYTON said he had favored the introduction of the resolution not merely because it concerned the administration of an officer of the highest reputation, but especially because the public confidence should not be destroyed without cause in the Post Office Department. During his connection with that department, at the opening of the late war, so sacred was the rule of inviolability of correspondence that although repeated representations were made by local postmasters as to the importance of ascertaining hostile proceedings through letters deposited in the postoffice, an order was issued from the Department prohibiting tampering in any way with such letters. The only alternative for the investigation suggested was that the Postmaster General should make it, but that an official head of one branch of the Government had to make a thorough investigation. He might send special agents, but the power to summon witnesses and to take testimony did not exist in him as it did in a committee of the House. Unless, therefore, the gentleman (Hewitt) would ratify the public belief by saying that he had sufficient grounds for his charge, he did not see that the House could withhold its assent to the resolution.

Mr. HALE said it was very clear to him that this was a matter which the House should not let drop. The inviolability of the Postoffice Department was such that it should be maintained and upheld by every power of the Government. Let the investigation be made, and made complete, and let the House know whether the last session of Congress dealt with the correspondence of any gentleman, and more especially of the gentleman from New York (Hewitt), who held a foremost position as one of the political parties of the country. That gentleman believed his correspondence had been tampered with, and he had just confidence in the Postoffice Department. He had shown him (Hale) two letters which he had examined, and had observed carefully, as he looked at the envelopes, that the letters had in some way been opened, but whether in the postoffice or by the writers, he had been unable to determine. Neither the gentleman from New York (Hewitt) nor himself had been able to determine. He had asked the gentleman whether he had any proof as to how it had been done, and he had answered he had not, and he did not believe, generally, they had been opened in the New York postoffice, that Postmaster James had any knowledge of it, but he (Hale) saw that the gentleman from New York believed his correspondence had been tampered with, and he was in favor of setting at work every power to see if that great department was secure.

Mr. SPRINGER's substitute for Platt's resolution was adopted by a strict party vote—157 to 99. The fraternal spirit previously objected to sending the inquiry to Mr. Cox's committee, now in New York investigating election frauds.

OSAGE FUNDS.

The bill authorizing the use of certain funds now in the Treasury belonging to the Osage Indians for the benefit of such Indians passed.

GRASSHOPPER PLAGUE.

Mr. HATCHER presented a memorial of the Governor of Missouri and other States for action in reference to the grasshopper plague.

TROOPS AT ELECTION POLLS.

Mr. WALKER introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Judiciary, providing that no military or naval officer, or officer of the civil, military or naval service, shall order, bring or keep, or have under his authority or control, any troops or armed men at or near the place where any general or special election is held in any State, either on the day of such election or for ten days prior or subsequent thereto, unless it be necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States, and any person violating any of the provisions of the section shall be fined not more than five thousand dollars and suffer imprisonment at hard labor not less than five years, and be deprived from holding any office of honor, profit or trust under the United States.

THE NAVY.

Mr. WILLIS introduced a bill, which was referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs, providing that the fleet of the navy in peace, and until the public safety demands an increase, shall consist of thirty-six going vessels of war, to be distributed among the respective squadrons and divisions. It specifies the number of the officers, and provides that their full pay shall be the same as officers of the army with whom they take rank, that when on sea service the same amounts in money shall be allowed as to assimilated grades in the army, that when on duty on shore officers shall be entitled to their full pay without allowances, and when on leave of absence to 62½ per cent. of the full pay of their grade without allowance. Retired staff officers who have seen twenty years' actual service at sea, and retired staff officers who have seen fourteen years' actual service at sea, become entitled to five per cent. of the full pay of the grade from which they are retired, and 10 per cent. of the full pay of the grade from which they were retired. In addition to the number of men now allowed to the navy, eight hundred and fifty boys for training may be enlisted.

A RECUSANT WITNESS.

The Speaker laid before the House a telegraphic communication from Wm. R. Morrison, Chairman of the Louisiana Investigating Committee, transmitting the record of proceedings before the committee in the case of E. W. Barnes, Manager of the Western Union Telegraph Company in New Orleans.

Mr. KNOTT submitted a resolution directing that Barnes, the recusant witness, be arrested and brought before the bar of the House for contempt. He declined to allow time for discussion, as suggested from the Republican side of the House, and then the Republicans resorted to the parliamentary device of preventing any action by withholding their votes, so as to have no quorum voting.

Finally it was agreed that an hour's discussion should be allowed, and Mr. GARFIELD spoke against the resolution, on the ground, principally, that the House is not competent for issuing telegraphic communications as an official report.

Quite a long discussion followed, and finally the resolution was adopted without a division.

The Speaker then laid before the House the action of the Senate in regard to the death of the late Senator Casserly, when remarks appropriate to the occasion were made by Messrs. Hereford, Faulkner, Wilson (W. Va.), Goode, Tucker, Cannon and Hardenbergh. The customary resolutions were adopted and the House adjourned.

A DOOMED CITY.

Little Rock Again Ablaze—Incendiaries at Work—A Vigilance Committee to be Formed.

LITTLE ROCK, December 21.—At this hour, (9:45 P. M.) a fire broke out on the corner of Louisiana and Fifth street, which, Hager's mill burns, will result in a loss at least $100,000, if not more. The fire was the work of incendiaries, and started in the rear room of A. Borg's paper warehouse, East of the building block. Robinson's grocery, Riley's Bros.'s store, and several other buildings have been burned. Hager's mill, it is thought, cannot be saved. The insurance will be very light. This is the sixth fire in six days.

At 7 P. M. water had not been secured by the steamers. The hook and ladder company is razing buildings. It is understood generally that the first man caught firing buildings is to be hung on the spot.

Desperate exertions on the part of the fire department and citizens saved Hager's mill on the opposite side of the street. At one time it was thought the Central House and ninety lodges south across the Missouri would burn. Water was obtained from the river, a branch. After the first cistern had given out, lines of men passed water in buckets to the flames. Pat. Cleburne's steamer was out of hails being driven past a burning building, and Mr. Watt Bender considerably injured.

Mr. Borge, in whose store the fire started, says his rear door was broken open and a fire started in the store room, where he had falsely placed three car loads of paper. Armed men guard goods in the streets. A vigilance committee will be formed to-morrow.

A second attempt was made to-night to fire a cotton warehouse in the rear of Fletcher & Hobee's block, but the flames were extinguished by the watchman. Last night an attempt was made to fire James Branch's house, by a bag of combustibles under the building, but it was discovered.

Scranton Coal Sale.

NEW YORK, December 21.—Fifty thousand tons of Scranton coal were sold at auction to-day by the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western Railroad Company. The following prices were obtained: 6,000 tons steamboat, $2.85@2.87½; 8,000 tons grate, $2.80@2.82½; 6,000 tons egg, $2.87½@2.90; 2.92½; 25,000 tons stove, $3.05@3.07½@3.65; 5,000 tons chestnut, $3.25@3.20.

FOREIGN NEWS.

Students Arrested in Russia for Shouting "Liberty."

Persia Threatening to Occupy Bagdad in Case of War.

THE WAR CLOUD.

The Peace Conference.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 21.—The preliminary conference held its last sitting yesterday. The plenipotentiaries have agreed to formulate their proposals in terms acceptable to all parties. The Porte has been asked to fix a day for the meeting of the plenary council.

The Turkish constitution will be promulgated immediately.

The nomination of Midhat Pasha to the Grand Vizierate has been very well received, and it is believed will hasten a solution of all difficulties.

The Servian Ministry.

BELGRADE, December 21.—Prince Milan has accepted the resignation of the ministry, who will remain in office, however, pending the formation of a new Cabinet.

Persia Threatening to Occupy Bagdad.

LONDON, December 21.—A dispatch from Teheran says it is considered improbable that Persia will endeavor to occupy Bagdad in the event of war.

War Requisitions in Bessarabia.

A St. Petersburg telegram says it is reported that the law authorizing the making of requisitions in time of war will be put in force in Bessarabia on January 1st.

Turkey's New Constitution.

CONSTANTINOPLE, December 21.—The new constitution will be promulgated on Saturday with great solemnity. All public edifices will be illuminated in the evening.

Djevedet Pasha has been provisionally appointed President of the State Council.

GREAT BRITAIN.

Terrific Gale.

LONDON, December 21.—During the gale the decks of the steamer City of Bristol, which has put back, were constantly flooded, her houses were smashed in, the chartroom was gutted, the saloon skylights burst in by the weight of the water breaking aboard, and several of the crew were injured. The steamer Illinois takes her passengers.

A severe gale, accompanied by torrents of rain, prevailed throughout the United Kingdom on Tuesday and Wednesday nights. The gale was particularly violent on the Scotch coast.

Charles Brent.

Owing to delay in the completion of the papers, Charles Brent, the Louisville forger, will not leave for the United States until Saturday. He will embark at Liverpool in the steamer Parthia, and be in charge of Inspector Shore, of the Home Department police.

DENMARK.

The Political Imbroglio.

LONDON, December 21.—The Copenhagen correspondent of the Pall Mall *Gazette* says after three days' debate in the Chamber the Cabinet was beaten by a vote of 61 to 59 on an item which the committee on the bill for ways and means inserted in the bill. The Cabinet will now, if it takes the advice of the Conservative press, close the session and provide for the expenses by royal ordinance. The sufficient pretext will be the citing of the entire Cabinet before the Risgraad (Supreme Court) for high treason in violating the Constitution. It is believed that the court will find them not guilty, thus destroying the power of the lower house to vote supplies.

FRANCE.

Legislative Proceedings.

VERSAILLES, December 21.—In the Senate to-day the report upon the estimates of the Minister of Justice claimed the Senate's right to accept or reject a bill as transmitted from the chamber of deputies. The deputies once again suppress any item restored by the Senate if they desired, since a law must have the joint adhesion of the two Houses. The items under discussion then passed by a vote of 236 against 42. The War and Marine estimates they had also passed, the former including a grant of 103,690 francs for army chaplains, which was suppressed by the chamber of deputies and restored by the Senate by a vote 225 to 45.

RUSSIA.

Suppressing "Liberty."

ST. PETERSBURG, December 21.—Eleven women and twenty-one men students at the School of Medicine and Technical Institute have been arrested for shouting "Liberty" and unfurling a red flag bearing the inscription "Union and Liberty" at the service in the Kassan church.

CUBA.

Cipher Messages Prohibited.

HAVANA, December 21.—The Government of the island of Cuba has published a decree prohibiting code and cipher messages of all kinds to and from the island of Cuba on and after to-day.

ITALY.

Dean of the Sacred College.

ROME, December 21.—The Pope has appointed Cardinal Rafaele La Valletta to succeed the late Cardinal Patrizi as Dean of the Sacred College.

WASHINGTON TOPICS.

Texas Pacific Railroad.

The House Committee on Pacific Railroads has referred all bills and propositions in regard to the Texas Pacific Railroad to a sub-committee, consisting of Messrs. Atkins, Lamar, O'Neil, Garfield and Luttrell, who are to report on them at the next meeting of the full committee ordered on January 4th, until which time the committee adjourned.

Republican Senatorial Caucus.

The Republican Senators held a caucus yesterday morning for the purpose of determining whether the pending resolution offered by Mr. Mitchell for an investigation of Governor Grover's action, &c., in regard to the Oregon Presidential electors, should be pressed to passage, it being considered advisable by some to discontinue the prolonged discussion of the subject, in view of the fact that the Committee on Privileges and Elections have already been given, by the adoption of Mr. Edmunds' resolution, substantially the same power on this subject that are proposed by the Mitchell resolution. After some discussion it was decided to press the resolution to a passage, and thus make a special case in regard to Oregon. No other action was taken, and nothing was said on the subject of a joint committee which is to be appointed by the presiding officers of the two Houses to report some plan for a settlement of all acrimonious disagreements in regard to counting the electoral votes, &c. It is generally understood that the members of the committee on the part of the Senate will not be designated until after the House committee shall have been appointed.

Oregon Election Investigation.

The Senate's sub-Committee on Privileges and Elections have subpœnaed the following witnesses to testify in relation to the Oregon election matter: Governor Grover, Secretary of State Shadwick, J. W. Watts, J. W. Odell, W. N. Cartwright, John Simpson, O. M. Denny, J. N. Dolph and G. A. Steels. They are expected next week. A. C. Cronin arrived yesterday afternoon. He says he has not yet determined when he will deliver to Vice President Ferry the certificates which he bears.

Irish Congratulations.

The House Committee on Foreign Affairs held a meeting yesterday, at which J. O'Connor Power, M. P., was present and read to the committee the address of the Irish nation on the centenary of American independence. The committee then appointed Messrs. Swann, Scofield and Monroe a sub-committee to report to the full committee as to the proper manner of receiving and acknowledging the address.

THE INDIAN WAR.

Sitting Bull Driven to the Bad Lands.

ST. PAUL, December 21.—The following was received at headquarters, Department of Dakota, to-day:

FT. PECK, W. T., December 8.

Yesterday, with a force of one hundred men of the Fifth Infantry, I followed and drove Sitting Bull's camp of one hundred and ninety lodges south across the Missouri river, near the mouth of Bark creek. He resisted my crossing for a short time, then retreated to the Bad Lands. Sitting Bull is camped on Bark creek, with over five hundred warriors.

(Signed) FRANK D. BALDWIN.

Lieut. Fifth Infantry, Commanding.

A MIDNIGHT FIRE.

A Blaze in Allegheny.

At midnight last night an alarm of fire was sent in from box 8, corner of Washington avenue and Taggart street, Allegheny. The alarm was caused by a fire in the house of Mr. Reitz, on Taggart street, near Washington avenue. A flue had become defective, and the weather-boarding at the side of the house took fire. The family were all nearly suffocated with smoke before they were awakened. The fire was soon extinguished and the loss will not exceed $75.

THE COURT RECORD.

Proceedings in the Several Courts Yesterday.

Common Pleas, No 1.

JUDGES STERRETT AND COLLIER.

N. Shafer vs. James Herron. Verdict for plaintiff for $78.48.

Wm. Wilson vs. John A. Verner. Verdict for plaintiff for $1,088.33.

Williams & Ralfe vs. Crone & Huckenstine. Verdict for plaintiff for $108.82.

There will be no more jury trials this week, the list having been exhausted.

Common Pleas No. 2.

JUDGES KIRKPATRICK AND WHITE.

Daniel Bushnell for use of Lockhart & Frew vs. Union Refining and Storing Company. Jury out.

L. Ward, by her next friend, vs. Samuel Severance; action of trover. Jury out.

Russell & Kahn vs. Lettie Robinson, two cases; action for goods sold and delivered. Verdicts for plaintiff for $134.82 and $239.75.

John Marshall vs. James Graham. Jury out.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO DAY.

Tarr et al., vs. McCloskey et al.
McKee vs. Walker.
Miller vs. Gerber.
Waldschmith vs. Lefever.
Dick, for use, vs. Yoder.
O'Bryan et ux., vs. Welden et al.
Evans et al., vs. Fellmeth et al.
Cella vs. Quinn.
Patterson's administratrix vs. Patterson et al.
Breed & Co. vs. Gainsford.
Hardman vs. Buckley.

Criminal Court.

JUDGE STOWE.

Commonwealth vs. Samuel Watkins, indicted for entering a building with intent to commit a felony on oath of George Oaks. The jury were out several hours, and failing to agree were discharged.

John Maginnis, against whom there were two charges of obtaining goods under false pretences, entered pleas of guilty and was sentenced thirty days to the Workhouse on each case.

Patrick May, indicted for buying scrap iron from minors, was found guilty but recommended to the mercy of the Court.

Commonwealth vs. Smart Cunningham indicted for keeping a ferocious dog on oath of Henry Bair. Verdict not guilty and prosecutor to pay the costs.

Commonwealth vs. Thos. McCarthy, Cornelius Ford and John O'Brien, indicted for robbery on oath of Thomas Miller. This prosecutor states that he was attacked by Ford on Spring alley, and he, (Ford) attempted to take his watch from him; that he caught hold of the chain and pulled the watch out of his pocket, breaking the chain, and failing to get the watch started to run away. That McCarthy and O'Brien were with him, and that when they started to run he caught McCarthy and was knocked down. Jury out.

Commonwealth vs. Charles Burke, indicted for felonious shooting on oath of Thos. Hall. Jury out. This case is now hearing the testimony for the Commonwealth withdrew the plea of not guilty and entered a plea of *nolo contendere*. Sentence was postponed until Saturday.

TRIAL LIST FOR TO-DAY.

Wm. McIntosh,	John Smith,
Peter Hamil,	Thomas O'Rourke,
John Gorley,	H. Rimensschneider,
Thomas Saville,	Jackson Kemp,
Thomas Mullen,	Wm. Dorney,
H. C. Campbell,	Wm. Anderson,
G. V. Kerson,	Davis Johnston, et al., (2)
Thomas Flaherty,	Adam Johnston,
Chas. Wilbert,	Paddy Meenan, et al.,
Wm. Drumming, et al.,	Dan'l McClelland,
L. Wilson,	Walter,
	Matthew Reilly.

Court Brevities.

THE United States Circuit Court was not in session yesterday.

THE U. S. District Court was not in session yesterday, in consequence of the illness of Judge Ketcham.

IN THE United States District Court yesterday Barnhard Lippman, of Corry, filed a voluntary petition in bankruptcy.

THE Linkner jury balloted twice only. On the first ballot 11 were for first degree and one for acquittal. The second ballot was taken yesterday morning.

SUIT was entered in Common Pleas No. 1 yesterday by E. McNulty, Postmaster, against W. E. Tustin, who was Wall's bondsman, the bond being for $3,000.

SUIT was entered in Common Pleas No. 2 yesterday by Hymen Silverman, against The Pennsylvania Company, operating the Cleveland & Pittsburgh Railroad. He claims $5,000 damages for being ejected from a train between Steubenville and Pittsburgh.

PROTHONOTARY KENNEDY has issued a notice to the effect that all writs returnable on the first Monday of January must be issued on or before the Friday preceding, in order that the Sheriff may serve them on the Saturday before the return day. No new cases will be received after Friday, December 29.

"OUT OF THE DEPTHS."

Mr. Murphy's Temperance Meetings Yesterday Afternoon and Evening—Mr. Murphy Invited to Drink.

The good work of lifting the unfortunate slaves of rum "Out of the Depths" of degradation, and making men of them continues to prosper.

NOONDAY PRAYER MEETING.

The noonday prayer meeting yesterday was more largely attended and a more lively interest was manifested than at any previous meeting. The customary religious exercises were held, after which a number of addresses were made by the recruits. Dr. Mundorf, a young physician of Lawrenceville, who has had a terrible experience in drinking, came forward, signed the pledge, and said that from what he had learned as a physician there was no other remedy for a drunkard but the grace of God. Mr. A. Dalgarner, a German, said that last night, after listening to Mr. Murphy, he could not sleep. He signed the pledge and made a short address in English and German. The only words that the non-German portion of the audience could understand were "Bruder Murphy and whisky," but he brought down the house—at least the German part. Robert Gillespie said that he had been a hard drinker; that he had signed the pledge and broken it; had signed it again and by God's help would keep it; he wanted to be a Christian.

Several young men told how they had been parted from their wives and children by rum. One young man wished the prayers of the people for a brother in St. Louis, who had left home while they were both drunk. Another said he had been a hard drinker—drank more than Capt. Barbour, but would now hold out by God's help. Mr. Murphy announced that it was the intention to buy a building for the use of the union.

THE EVENING MEETING.

The church was literally packed last night. The meeting was opened with the customary singing and prayer, Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln conducting the musical feature of the meeting.

Rev. Dr. Murray explained to the meeting that the trustees of the church desired to have it cleaned and fixed up for the Christmas service. Mr. Murphy stated that he desired to hold a watch meeting New Years eve and Dr. Murray tendered him the use of the church.

Rev. Mr. Clark made a brief address, and was followed by Mr. Murphy, who, at the conclusion of his address, stated that the committee had decided to charge 25 cents admission to the meeting at Library Hall, Sunday evening. He also announced that Miss Francis E. Willard would be in the city soon, and would address those who had signed the pledge. The experience meeting proper here began, and five minutes' speeches were announced in the order of their coming. Mr. E. D. Wilt and Dr. Mundorf made brief speeches, when Mr. Swartzwelder was observed in the audience and was called to the stand, and delivered an eloquent and fervently appealing talk to all who had not already done so to come forward and sign the pledge.

Captain Barbour was the next speaker. He advised all his moderate drinking friends to come forward and sign the pledge.

Wm. Cook was the next. He gave a sad history of his experience as a drunkard.

Mr. Murphy will address the ladies engaged in the temperance work at 3 o'clock this afternoon.

Mr. Swartzwelder, Col. Ruehl and other able speakers will address the meeting at Library Hall Sunday evening.

A large number of new names were added to the roll yesterday and last evening.

SOUTH SIDE MEETING.

A lively interest in the work is being manifested on the South Side, and a large meeting was held in the Methodist church, Carson street, last evening. George Hall, N. W. Hetherington, and others delivered addresses. Thirty-six South Siders signed the pledge.

MURPHY TAKES A DRINK.

A day or two since Mr. Murphy was passing down Fifth avenue and stepped into Stromp's saloon to look for material to work upon, when he was accosted by three gentlemen, well known in the community, who were in the act of taking a drink. Mr. M. was invited to join them, but declined, and they insisted. He at length agreed to drink, and called for a glass of water.

The *aqua pura* was furnished him, and clinking glasses with his new friends and wishing them luck, they all drank together. Mr. Murphy then read them a lecture on temperance, and invited them to come to his meetings, which they promised to do.

BREVITIES.

Paragraphic Pencillings of Passing Events.

····A special meeting of Select Council will be held this afternoon.

····Two more shop-lifters were arrested in Wm. Semple's store, in Allegheny, yesterday afternoon, and were held for trial at Court.

····A lady lost $125 on Federal street, near the Diamond, Allegheny, on Wednesday afternoon. The amount was all in five dollar notes.

····The friends of Schaaf propose to measure on the ice the length of the course over which he recently rowed with Morris on the Monongahela.

····Mr. James Smith, of this city, was badly burned and cut about the head and chest yesterday by an explosion at the gas works in New Castle.

····Four companies of United States troops passed through the city yesterday on their way to Washington. Now for a lugubrious howl from the *Post*.

····The preliminary examination of the pupils in the ward high schools was made yesterday by Superintendent Luckey, assisted by the High School faculty.

····Six car loads of ice, harvested from pure and clear mountain pools, were brought to this city yesterday and stored away for the use of the Pennsylvania railroad.

····While Constable D. S. McKnight was serving a summons at No. 973 Penn avenue, yesterday, some person stole his horse and buck-wagon, which were left standing on the street.

····The corridor of Municipal Hall, in Allegheny, was crowded last night with aspirants for city offices engaged in laying ropes that they hope will lead to their election next month.

····John Mack, a freight brakeman on the Pennsylvania railroad, was run over by his train near Latrobe on Tuesday night and instantly killed. He lived at Armagh, in Indiana county.

····A concert for the benefit of the poor will be given this evening at the Bellefield Presbyterian church. Mr. J. H. Gittings will manipulate the piano, assisted vocally by Messrs. Colville, Edwards and others.

····R. S. Ferry, who purports to be a Pittsburgher, and J. Barber, an alleged resident of Toledo, Ohio, have been swindling the farmers in the neighborhood of Butler by a lottery game. They got $209 out of one man.

····A boy named Fisher, nine years of age, slept in King's stable on Center avenue Wednesday night, and was nearly frozen to death when found yesterday morning by officer Irwin. He was taken home, but did not return to consciousness for some time.

····A fine turkey dinner will be given on Christmas day by Superintendent Grubbs to the adults in the Allegheny City Home, while the children will be treated to candies in addition. There are hundreds outside of the Home who will get neither on Christmas day.

····Murphy's cold water army now num be 1,000 strong, and it is thought it is hearing the testimony for the Commonwealth withdrew the plea of not guilty and entered a plea of *nolo contendere*. Sentence was postponed until Saturday.

····Last evening Mr. John G. Caddes, of the Allegheny fire department, was united in the bonds of matrimony with Miss Lizzie Pagen, at the Sandusky street Baptist church. The happy couple were the recipients of the hearty congratulations of their many friends.

····A slight fire in a shed in the rear of Stuart & Bros., store, corner of Pennsylvania avenue and Frazier street, Allegheny, caused the alarm of fire last evening from box 14. In the afternoon the Goodwill company extinguished a fire in the cellar of the same establishment.

····Frank Pearson, who was engaged working yesterday afternoon on the ice slide at Omslar & Walker's tin house, on River avenue, Eighth ward, Allegheny, slipped and fell off the slide to the ground, a distance of about sixteen feet, sustaining several severe bruises, and also an injury of the back.

····The whereabouts of Wall, the defaulting Post Office clerk, still remains in mystery. It is not known whether he is in the city or not, and it does not appear that any great effort is being made to discover his hiding place. Col. Negley has not yet been able to ascertain definitely the amount of the defalcation, but thinks it will not exceed $7,000.

····A valuable gold watch worth $400, a lot of jewelry and a considerable sum of money were stolen on Wednesday night by burglars from the residence of Mr. John D. Chambers, at Washington, Pa.; and from the house of Mr. Stewart, near Mr. Chambers', a lady's fine gold watch, breastpins and jewelry were taken the same night.

····Two dealers in spurious silver coin, James Lane and S. R. McMillan, were arrested at Lilly station, P. R. R., Wednesday, by Deputy U. S. Marshals J. T. Harris, of Johnstown, and after a hearing before U. S. Commissioner Rutledge, of Johnstown, they were committed in default of bail. They were brought to this city yesterday morning and lodged in jail.

····Two men named John Howe and J. Savage indulged in a fight on the wharf, Wednesday evening, to see which was the better man. They had only fought two rounds when they were arrested by officer Wm. Fowler, and the Mayor yesterday gave them each ten days to jail. They had been in a saloon near by talking about prize fights, when the dispute as to their relative merits took place.

····Patrick Boyle, a laborer employed on an excavation on a side street in the Seventeenth ward, while at work Wednesday afternoon, was injured seriously, and, as it proved, fatally, by the bank caving in and falling on him. He was conveyed to his residence on Forty-fifth street, where medical aid was summoned; but notwithstanding that everything possible was done for him, Mr. Boyle expired late Wednesday night. He was an old man, and leaves a wife to mourn his loss.

····A workingman named Baird, an employe of the Keystone Bridge Works, in Lawrenceville, while working near a large flywheel yesterday, was struck by one of the arms. His head was caught between the rim of the wheel and the floor and crushed in a horrible manner. Medical aid was summoned, and on examination his hurts were found to be of a very serious nature."—*Leader*. One would naturally suppose the man was hurt if his "head was crushed in

DAILY GAZETTE

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KING, REED & CO., EDITORS AND PROPRIETORS.

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TERMS FOR 1876.

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1876.

PETROLEUM at Antwerp 63.

BONDS at Frankfort, new 5s, 101¼.

Gold closed in New York yesterday at 107⅞@107¾.

GRIER has returned. Now for his revelations.

CRONIN is designated the "Electoral tunity."

THE business men of the country do not rise up promptly at the Democratic command, and declare for TILDEN. The belief is becoming decided that the business interests of the country demand HAYES' inauguration.

WE have had, thus far, a fair sample of old fashioned Winter. Cold weather, snows, storms, and occasional high winds. It has not been usual, of late years, to have either as much snow or cold, so early in the season, as we have had this winter.

THE silliest dodge of the Democracy is that of attempting to connect the lukewarmness of the Southern people in the bull-dozing cause to offers from HAYES of recognition, if they will behave themselves. HAYES is not bargaining out the patronage of the Presidential office.

JOHN TAYLOR JOHNSTON, formerly President of the New Jersey Central Railroad, has come to financial misfortune, and has been compelled to offer for sale a splendid collection of paintings, gathered with great care and cost. Ninety paintings were sold the first night for $138,000, far below their real value.

THE Philadelphia and Harrisburg papers are earnestly discussing the capital removal question once more. The Philadelphians claim their city as the natural capital of the State, and propose that Memorial Hall shall be utilized as a Capitol, for the Legislature and the Executive offices. Of course, Harrisburg objects.

PROCTOR KNOTT has taken to the warpath once more, now that BLAINE is out of the way. He proposes to arrest the Western Union Telegraph Manager at New Orleans, and drag him to Washington, in order to arraign him before the House for contempt. It is, no doubt, an important and extensive affair, but the game is worth the powder.

A GENTLEMAN who has access to a large list of Southern papers, sends nineteen editorials from as many different journals, all headed alike, and precisely similar in the first paragraph,—the articles all being fiercely favorable to the inauguration of TILDEN peaceably if may be, and forcibly if necessary. Evidently the Literary Bureau is still at work, as we noticed an article of this sort in the *Post*.

HEWITT is still at it. He has the New York postoffice on hand now. His charge that his letters had been opened was met by a proposal to investigate the subject, but he yesterday declared he thought no good would come of it. He evidently has nothing in the shape of proof, but some of the Democratic members are so hungry for an investigation that they are pressing their resolution.

PHILADELPHIA Councils are making a very decided raid on the city taxes, with a view to relieving the tax assessments a trifle. They have cut the figures down considerably in several particulars, but in reducing the police force a hundred men ran against the interests of some of the largest taxpayers, who claim that they must have their property protected, and that there are not too many men now. Still the reduction will aggregate quite a considerable sum.

THE latest joke in connection with South Carolina affairs is the report that HAMPTON will apply to the House of Representatives at Washington for recognition. We do not doubt it. That amiable body would be only too glad to comply with his request. But what good would it do? He could gain no moral strength from it, as it would be a partisan act. The President would pay no attention to it, and Mr. HAMPTON would remain in the same splitstick he is now in. He wants something more than the recognition of his own party, —that he has already.

WE fear the efforts of the Democracy to extract, even from their own witnesses, evidence that shall prove the use of intimidation against them by Republicans. The most they get is, that threats were made, but no actual force employed. Says one: "I have known of no violence to colored Democrats, only threatening talk;" says another: "I saw no violence or intimidation, only threatening remarks;" another: "No violence was done to colored Democrats;" another: "I know of no violence to colored Democrats, but heard a great many threats." These are evidently the committee's own witnesses, from whom these admissions were doubtless attracted by the Republican members. They show that all that can be alleged is mere talk, and as this is not located, we can accept just as much of it as we prefer.

GEN. JO. SHELBY, as a Confederate officer, was worth a dozen of those blatant gentlemen who are now so loudly calling for war. He has just given free expression to his views on the political situation, and they accord so perfectly with the authoritative expressions from the South that they are worth reproducing. Speaking of the Democratic programme for a new war, unless TILDEN is inaugurated, he says: "The President is the most authoritative exponent of the wishes of the Government, and I will regard his action as decisive. He has the army and navy to back him, and to oppose his fiat it would be necessary to raise an army of opposition. If he decides in favor of HAYES, of course he will see to it that HAYES is installed in the White House, and that he has the continued protection of the army and navy. If the Democrats determine upon an active opposition, it will be necessary to inaugurate TILDEN in some sort of fashion, give him his Cabinet and establish a separate seat of Government and to appoint a new and distinctive list of revenue and postoffice officials throughout the Union. Then the issue will be reduced to a question of force. I, for one, who have been taught by the Arbitrament of arms that the decision of the Central Government is supreme, will go with General GRANT in whatever decision he may make, under the conscientious conviction that in such a contingency he has a right, as the Executive of the nation, to determine who is elected. If actual war should occur between the two parties, and President GRANT should find it necessary to call for volunteers to sustain him, I should not lose two hours in responding. I speak only for myself, but I am sure that my opinion reflects that of thousands of those who followed myself and other Confederate officers.

THE view presented by a correspondent of the GAZETTE, some time since, that the rejection of the votes of certain States reduced the number of legal votes required to elect, and hence did not necessarily throw the election into the House, has been accepted elsewhere. A writer at the East, evidently in understanding with prominent Congressmen at Washington, claims that either the Senate must assent to the theory that the power of rejection resides in the two Houses jointly, and then both must agree as to how it shall be exercised, or in default of any such agreement the President of the Senate, acting upon the interpretation of the Constitution of the convention that framed the instrument, must himself open and count the votes. That interpretation is found in the resolution of the convention of September 17, 1787, passed to give effect to the first election of President. It declares: "That the Senators and Representatives should convene at the time and place assigned; that the Senators should appoint a President of the Senate for the sole purpose of receiving, opening and counting the votes for President, and that after he shall be chosen, the convention, together with the President, should, without delay, proceed to execute this Constitution." This resolution was signed by George Washington, President of the Convention.

A CONFIRMATION.

The sudden decline in the price of petroleum at Antwerp to its really normal and legitimate price, fully confirms the statement made by us a few days since, that the high prices that prevailed were speculative, and were not to the advantage of refiners but represented the efforts of exporters to save themselves from loss on their short sales. Thus early we have the clearest evidence how foolish and ruinous it would have been for the producers and refiners to have gone to war on this exporters' speculation. In a few days petroleum at Antwerp goes down from 20 to 25 francs, showing conclusively two things: That the oil was forced above its legitimate value; and that it was purely a speculative matter. These are shown by the circumstance that it could not be held there. Whether the exporters who were short made enough on this speculative rise to save themselves we do not know, but that they did it for that purpose is very certain. Our refiners were not in that movement, and did not profit by it. Hence the occasional feeling among producers is entirely erroneous, and were it to take the form of real action would not benefit themselves, but only the exporters, whose interests are not in this country. As we understand it, the refiners, including the Standard Oil Company, simply seek to carry forward a legitimate business, with reasonable profits, so controlling exports as to secure, say about 60 francs as the selling price in the Antwerp market. This naturally causes the crude oil here to range from $3.50 to $4 per barrel, which affords an ample profit to producers. If harmony can be maintained, and the business held in its present relations, Pennsylvania will be largely benefited with what remains of the present, but more particularly with next year's oil trade. It is in this light that the subject should be viewed. We have a product that has a certain sale abroad, at a given price. Above this the rate is speculative, and cannot be maintained long at a time. Below this amount we lose just so much that we are entitled to receive on our export. At the price the market will bear, there is a fair and reasonable profit for all parties in interest, and what is better an income that will prove particularly beneficial to Western Pennsylvania, and generally to the country at large. If the exporters and foreign consumers can be thoroughly convinced that the oil business in this country is taken out of the speculative region, and made legitimate, we will soon, through it, have an awakening in all our industries.

THE DEFALCATION.

The Pittsburgh postoffice has achieved an unenviable reputation, within a few years, through its frequent defalcations. The sums have not usually been large, but the repetitions of the offence have assumed the appearance of scandal. With the criminal feature of the recent default the Government will doubtless deal in a vigorous and effective manner. This policy should have been pursued at the outset, but certainly must be now. Whatever claims to sympathy the offender may have, whether on the score of previous good character, family associations, or anything else, must yield to the necessity of making such an example as will effectually purify the public service in that particular department. It is strangely the case that a given form of crime, once its consequences have been safely evaded, becomes attractive, and almost magnetic in its influence, so that those exposed to its temptation, unless firmly established in moral principle, are liable to fall. The trouble, also, in our Pittsburgh administration was that a mild offence, which followed the first defalcation, was punished with undue severity, thus showing a partiality that was totally at variance with justice. Thus there has been a lack of right treatment of the defalcations we have had. In the present instance there should be no trifling with justice.

But the punishment of the young man thus proven guilty is not the end of necessary precautions, in this instance. An entirely new deal seems to us essential, at this time, in our Postoffice, so far as responsible positions are concerned. We say this with no personal unkindness to any one, but simply because it is a public necessity. The defalcations and violations of law, show demoralization, which can only be remedied by the most radical changes. Then there has certainly been a lack of close, scrutinizing, careful oversight, which at least proves inefficiency in administration. It was the duty of the Postmaster to keep the most alert watch on that, and every other department of the office; and while to him belongs the credit of the discovery of the wrong, a close and rigid oversight would probably have prevented it. We have no desire, at the present, to dwell largely on these points. Their gist is that the criminal party shall be promptly punished; and that such changes shall be made in the Postoffice management as will give reasonable assurance of a more vigorous and careful administration in the future. It is impossible to have these defalcations occur at short intervals; and in providing against them selections should be made with reference to alertness, well-grounded integrity, and simplicity of life, on the part of the appointees.

A NEW BLAZE.

HENDRICKS protests. The gathering of the Democratic forces does not mean war; but only consultation, and the enunciation of the views of the people. The motive of said enunciation is to strengthen the backbone of the Democratic House. So the movement, so full of the threatenings of war, a few days since, proves to be only the sweet lullaby of peace. To those of a critical disposition, the question comes naturally up, why should the Democracy attempt to represent the North, when they were beaten in all the Northern States but four? Do the people usually select the minority to represent their views? If these meetings were held in the Southern Democratic States there would be some sense in them; but Southern Democrats are very quiet over the Presidential situation. A gentle hint of the attractiveness of another war, with Democratic support behind them, does not seem to attract their interested attention. They tried that, and know just what said support means. Hence the burthen of the situation, and the noise of the war cry fall on the Northern Democracy. At first, its savageness was terrible. By all the vows of the Knights of the Golden Circle, HAYES should not be inaugurated. Too much money, perjury, gunpowder, hemp, and bowie-knife had been expended in behalf of TILDEN for failure to be submitted to. So they sang their war song, and blood was in their eye. Now, a change has come over the spirit of their dreams. They are Zion's lambs, full of the melody of peace, and seeking only to innocently "express themselves."

"Thou dost protest too much," is a dramatically classic expression, very applicable in this case. In Ohio, HAYES had about 7,000 majority; in Pennsylvania very nearly 18,000 majority. Yet in both these, as well as other Republican States, the Democracy are summoned to assemble, to prepare these back-bone supporting proclamations, as representatives of the people. The whole affair is a fraud. The Democratic party has not honestly carried a single Northern State, and is not entitled to speak for any one of them. They simply speak for themselves, and this they have done, over and over again. If the House needs such support as this, it is very weak, indeed. This entire question is solely one of right. If TILDEN is elected, there is a legal and proper way of ascertaining that fact; and if it is thus legally ascertained, Republican Senators, President GRANT and Governor HAYES are distinctly pledged to give him the office, peaceably and without contest of any kind. On the other hand, if he is not thus ascertained to have been elected he is not entitled to the office, and will not get it, no matter how many meetings and representations we have. The entire movement was started as a piece of bluster, and bids fair to come out a very weak demonstration.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.

THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF ANIMALS, with a Study of the Relations of Living and Extinct Faunas, as Elucidating the Past Changes of the Earth's Surface. By Alfred Russell Wallace. In two volumes. Published by Harper & Bros., New York.

The author, in these two large volumes, endeavors to collect and summarize the existing information on the distribution of land animals, and to explain the more remarkable and interesting of the facts by means of established laws of physical and organic change. He explains that his object has been to show the impartial bearing of researches into the natural history of every part of the world upon the study of its past history. The volume is profusely illustrated, and the classification of the matter gives the book rare value to the student. The author writes with fluency and force, and in making up his conclusions draws upon a fund of information which indicates learning and research and a thorough mastery of the subject.

THE LIFE OF MARIE ANTOINETTE, QUEEN OF FRANCE. By Charles Duke Yonge. Published by Harper & Bros., New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street.

The author of this work has a great name to give weight to his production, and it is but fair to say that he has not allowed his fame to suffer in this volume. He chose a rarely attractive subject for his pen, and has added to the usual charm of the history of the ill-fated—but lovely and lovable Queen—the graces of an elevated, pure, eloquent style of composition, and the calm, clear judgment of the cultivated and impartial historian. The story of the impulsive Marie, as told in this volume, is wonderfully fascinating, and yet the imagination of the romancer never crowds out the impartiality of the true historian. The book is worthy of a place among the standard histories in English literature.

PRACTICAL COOKING AND DINNER GIVING. A treatise containing instructions in cooking; in the combination and serving of dishes; and in the fashionable modes of entertaining at breakfast, lunch and dinner. By Mrs. Mary E. Henderson. Published by Harper & Bros., New York; and for sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street.

This is *the* cook book of the season, and in many respects is superior to any other. It contains recipes from some distinguished ladies—and every recipe is guaranteed—that is it has been very frequently tried and not found wanting. Mrs. Henderson's remarks on dinner giving and entertainments are quite pertinent and suggestive, and will help many a good housewife out of perplexity. The directions in every case are plain, direct and practical. The book is dedicated to Mrs. Gen. Sherman, who is represented as a pattern housewife.

FRIDTHJOF'S SAGA: a Norse Romance. By Esaias Tenger, Bishop of Wexiö. Translated from the Swedish by Thomas A. E. Holcomb and Martha A. Lyon-Holcomb. Published by S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago. For sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., No. 101 Wood street.

This is the greatest poem which enriches the literature of the Norseman. It has been translated into every European language, and has everywhere received the highest meed of praise from poets and critics. No one can peruse the poem without feeling a loftier idea of heroism, bravery, and a sweeter conception of human love. The translators of this American edition claim that it is the best that has ever made, in that it preserves as near as may be all the flow and rhythm of the original poem.

THE FARM-YARD CLUB OF JOTHAM; An Account of the Families and Farms of that Famous Town. By Gen. B. Taylor. Published by Lockwood, Brooks & Co., Boston. For sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street.

The basis of this book was found in a series of letters on agricultural subjects, written for a New England paper. Afterward the author collected the letters, wove them into the form of a story descriptive of life in a rural community, in which a club—the Jotham Club—flourished. At the club the topics interesting to farmers and their friends were discussed, and became the volume before us. It is illustrated with numerous cuts, and the lively style of the author makes the book interesting ever to those not directly engaged in agricultural pursuits.

THE MISTRESS OF THE MANSE. By J. G. Holland. Published by Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street.

Among holiday books none hold a higher place than this edition of Dr. Holland's poem. The illustrations with which it is so plentifully supplied, are from drawings by Mary A. Hallock, Thomas Moran, Alfred Fredericks, Edwin A. Abbey and Helena DeKay. They are superb, both in design and in execution, and no poem has ever had a more royal setting. The poem itself, while never rising to the rank of great songs, is still one that will find myriads of readers and admirers, as much for the grace of the versification as for the tender sentiment which is breathed through it everywhere.

TWO YEARS IN CALIFORNIA. By Mary Cone. Published by S. C. Griggs & Co., Chicago, and for sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., 101 Wood street.

This is not a mere book of travels and descriptive sketches. It rather aims to give facts in reference to the climate, the soil, the healthfulness, the general geographical character of California, interspersed with comments upon the people, their customs, political, literary and social life. It is just such a book as the prospective settler in, or traveler Californiawards, will find almost invaluable, while those who do not propose a trip to the Golden Gate, will still find the volume entaining, as descriptive of a very interesting section of our country.

THE THEORY OF SOUND IN ITS RELATION TO MUSIC. By Professor Pietro Blaserna, of the Royal University of Rome; with numerous wood cuts. New York: D. Appleton & Co. For sale in Pittsburgh by S. A. Clarke & Co., Wood street.

This work is an attempt to popularize the theory of music, and so to combine the theoretical with the practical study of this art, that instrumentalists may obtain some knowledge of those fundamental laws of sound on which music is based. This volume contains a great many curious facts from a variety of sources—personal, literary, scientific, political and philosophical—and has the merit, rare in a work which is somewhat controversial, of being suggestive rather than aggressive.

ANECDOTE BIOGRAPHY OF PERRY BYSSHE SHELLEY, edited by Richard Henry Stoddard. Published by Scribner, Armstrong & Co., New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by R. S. Davis & Co., corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street.

This is another of the Sans Souci series. We have here Shelley's life—from infancy to death portrayed in poem and story, and reminiscences of friends. It is a strangely fascinating life-history of one of the most brilliant and one of the most eccentric of English masters of song. The biographer has shown us Shelley's failings as well as his virtues, and has given a faithful portrait of one of the greatest geniuses associated with English literature.

THE JUDGMENT OF JERUSALEM PREDICTED IN THE SCRIPTURES, FULFILLED IN HISTORY, by the Rev. Wm. Patton, D. D. Published by Robert Carter & Bro.'s, New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by S. A. Clarke & Co., Wood street.

This is a condensation of facts concerning the destruction of Jerusalem, gathered from the writings of Josephus and others. The work has been well done and in a comparatively small compass, the reader has all the general information necessary to give a clear idea of the fulfillment of prophecy in the destruction of the great city. The illustrations add to the value of the book.

THE GOLD OF CHICKAREE: By Susan and Anna Warner. Published by G. P. Putnam & Co., New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by J. R. Weldin & Co., 101 Wood street.

This is one of the brightest and best of the books of the season. It is full of lively dialogue, free from sickly sentimentality, permeated with the sentiment of healthy, genuine love, and altogether such a story as will please even the most captious of the critics who have feared that the Misses Warner could never keep up the charm of their other works. This is a sequel to Wych Hazel, and those who have read the first will need the last to make the whole story complete.

THE FORTUNES OF MISS FOLLEN; by Mrs. Goodwin—Talcott. Published by D. Appleton & Co., New York, and for sale in Pittsburgh by S. A. Clarke & Co., Wood street.

This is a delightful love story, the scene being laid in Germany. It is plentifully interspersed with bright sketches of German life, customs, scenery and society, with comments on art and literature, in which American achievements come in for a share.

THE BOYS OF '76. A History of the Battles of the Revolution. By Charles Carleton Coffin. Illustrated. Published by Harper & Bros., New York.

This book is profusely illustrated and handsomely gotten up in every way. The stories of the battle of the Revolution are told with a vividness, and a pictorial power that is captivating. The volume comprises sketches of all the principal battles of the Revolution so interwoven as to form a complete history of the war. It makes an elegant Centennial gift for the boys.

NEWS OF THE DAY.

—Peter Cooper polled 71,350 votes in all.

—Senator Edmunds is bald and stooping, but only 48.

—What Santa Claus says—"Know all men by these presents."

—The Boston *Advertiser* says "Mr. Evarts believes that Hayes has been fairly elected."

—The sixty-fifth birthday of John Bright was celebrated at Oldham by a public dinner.

—Gen. Nikitine has appeared upon the European war field. Put that in your pipe and smoke it.

—It is not proper to speak of ex-Union soldiers. The Union is in reasonably robust health, and there is plenty of the boys to stand by it, even if Hayes should be declared the next President.

—Down in Troy an omnibus knocks a lady down and one of the wheels rubs the powder all off one cheek without doing further damage. That's not the sort of a bus that induces them to turn the other cheek also.

—Dayton, Ohio, is ordinarily a quiet town, but during the last week it police have been unusually active in an endeavor to discover the wretch who greased the High School Principal's chair and desk with lard over night.

—Large numbers of frost fish have been picked up on the beach at Long Branch during the last week. In the daytime they keep out in deep water, but after dark they come in near the shore to feed, and are washed up by the surf.

—Nothing is so soothing as a sister's love and sympathy. Every young man ought to have a sister's smiles to encourage him. If you have not got a sister of your own, you may be able to borrow one somewhere in the neighborhood.

—What's the matter? No Infant Asylum ball this winter? Hard times though it be, New York can't do without the "infants," you know.—*N. Y. Com. Adv.* No; but we think you might get along without their bawls.—*Norr. Herald.*

—The telegraph has lost track of Dom Pedro. He disappeared around the corner of one of the Pyramids, and zipped over the edge of the distant horizon, the meantime taking notes on the quality of the soil and the lay of the country for his new book.

—Old Tubular will not hang up his socks this Christmas. He fooled Kriss Kringle last year. The toes and heels were out, and he sot a two bushel basket under 'em, and everything Kriss put into those socks went on through the holes into the basket. He got a ton.

—What does the Boston *Herald*, a Tilden paper, mean by this? "It isn't best for the Republicans to calculate too much on Mr. Tilden's going the way Greeley did. An old lawyer with a cool head can stand considerable strain. Since the campaign didn't kill Tilden, it isn't likely any subsequent proceedings will hurt him."

—The Christmas holidays are now fully opened, and the week, it may fairly be inferred, will be the busiest of the entire year. Now will the merchants rub their hands in blissful content, and the fairs be in all their glory, and now will amusement providers hang their banners on the outer walls, or, what is a great deal better, spread their announcements in the papers.

—There was an amateur performance on the Hill last night of a play, written for the occasion, called *The Prodigal Son*. The Prodigal appeared in very tattered raiment, which displayed to full advantage a leg of such marvelous proportions below the knee that one old lady critically remarked he had violated the proprieties of the piece by bringing the fatted "calf" with him.

—The new London respirator vail, which is designed to protect ladies from the ill effect of fog and dampness, is made of simple blonde, with a border about four inches in depth, of double silk crossing and wove along the lower edge. This covers the nostrils as well as the mouth. As the breath has a tendency to lodge on the gossamer, the vail is rendered stiff by means of thin wire gauze.

—It seems almost a pity to describe the less agreeable aspects of men of great genius; yet it gives one a graphic idea of De Quincey to imagine him, as he has just been pictured, shuffling about and a sort of Jeremy Diddler, asking people if they had such a thing as a sixpence or a shilling about them. If they had, he borrowed it to buy laudanum, of which he would drink a wine glass at a time with as little compunction as if it had been claret.

—It is a joyous sight to see the happy expressions of children's faces, as their little bright eyes stare at Old Santa Claus in the show window. Expectation runs high in their bosoms as they anticipate the coming of Old Kriss Kringle on Christmas eve; and how many poor little ones will dream dreams of happiness that night, who will awake next morning to find an empty stocking, a father in sorrow, a mother in tears, and the hungry wolf howling at the door. God help and pity all such.

—Lucy Hooper finds that American girls who marry French titles come to regret their folly. She writes in her last Paris letter to the *World*: "I would say to all American women of independent or prospective fortune, buy paintings, statuary, diamonds, laces, poodle dogs, parrots or trained cats if you will, but do not, oh! do not lay out any portion of your wealth in the purchase of a nice little French nobleman, with curly mustache and black eyes, and a divine way of putting on his gloves and of twiddling his cane."

—When a New Albany girl hangs up her stocking on Christmas eve, she forgets that Old Kriss Kringle doesn't carry more than you could haul in a two-horse wagon. Why, if he was to see a New Albany girl's stocking, after she had worn it once or twice, hanging to a mantel-piece, he would crawl up out of the chimney without all the good he's got, and congratulate himself that the girl didn't wake up and ask him to stay there two or three hours filling it up. Besides, if old Kriss was to undertake to fill 'em up, the poor little ones would stand a poor chance to get anything; for three good, healthy New Albany girl's stockings would consume his stock, and it wouldn't do to give the empty sack to the little ones. Oh, no!—*Louisville Courier Journal.*

A WINTER SONG.

Summer joys are o'er;
Flowrets bloom no more;
Wintry winds are sweeping;
Through the snow-drifts peeping,
Cheerful evergreen
Rarely now is seen.

Now no plumed throng
Charms the woods with song,
Ice-bound trees are glittering;
Merry snow-birds twittering;
Fondly strive to cheer
Scenes so cold and drear.

Winter, still I see
Many charms in thee;
Love thy chilly greeting,
Snow storms fiercely beating.
And the dear delights
Of the long, long nights.

Holly (1748-1776.)

STATE NEWS.

····Pennsylvania's tobacco crop this year is estimated at 40,000 cases.

····A gas explosion at one of the Shenango furnaces, at West Middlesex, on Sunday last, did $1,500 worth of damage and slightly injured Hiram Van Horn.

····Reis, Brown & Berger's Rosina furnace, at New Castle, will blow out as soon as the stock on hand is worked up. It has been running without interruption for three and a half years.

····A. Brawdy, of Monongahela City, has started a line of stages to run between Belleverson and that place whenever the navigation of the river is interrupted from any cause. The stages will connect at Monongahela City with all departing and arriving passengers trains on the P., V. & C. R. R.

····An unknown man, supposed to be a Pittsburgher, was found in a dying condition on Tuesday morning at Lancaster, near the depot of the Reading railroad. He died shortly after being discovered. He was fine looking, of robust build, and apparently not more than twenty years old. He spent Sunday night at the Lancaster county alms-house, where he told Superintendent Cox that he was on his way to Pittsburgh.

A Babe Freezes to Death in Its Mother's Arms.

"It's my Fannie! my poor cold baby," said Julia Deems to officer Lamb of the Oak street station on Friday night. The officer was patroling his beat through Frankfort street, and was approaching Gold street when he saw under the flickering lamp a woman sitting on the curbstone, rocking and caressing a bundle which she held in her hands. The remnant of an old straw bonnet covered her head, and the faded ribbons fluttered in the cold wind, while her scanty and torn clothing at times were blown aside, exposing her naked arms and neck. She shivered, and her teeth chattered as the piercing wind swept down the street, and then she wept and muttered over again, "My poor cold darling; my poor little baby." The officer took the bundle from the unfortunate woman and unwrapped it, and then discovered that the child had frozen to death on the breast of its mother.

The unfortunate mother was taken to the police station, and there gave her name as Julia Deems, twenty-eight years old. She lived at 68 Cherry street. The child, she said, was but six months old. She had a drunken husband who ill-treated, half-starved, and abused her. Hunger had driven Mrs. Deems into the streets to beg. Want of food dried up the source of nourishment for her child. Men and women had passed and repassed and heard her appeals, not for herself, but for her child, but not one had heeded her supplication for charity. While she hugged her offspring to her breast its sobs were quieted as it grew chill and cold. The sympathising officers vainly tried to comfort the woman, but she sank to the floor when her dead child was taken from her. —*N. Y. Sun.*

Pittsburgh Bank for Savings,

NO. 61 FOURTH AVENUE,
PITTSBURGH.

Board of Managers—George A. Berry, President, John Scott, Jas. Park, Jr., Vice Presidents, A. Bradley, J. L. Graham, A. S. Bell, Wm. K. Klimick, John S. Ditworth, F. Rahm, G. Follansbee, Robert C. Schmerts,
Secretary and Treasurer—CHAS. G. MILNOR.
Solicitor—JOHN H. BAILEY.

MY WIFE

Insists on using only **B. T. Babbitt's Best Soap.**

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

ALLCOCK'S

POROUS PLASTERS.

Ask for ALLCOCK'S, and obtain them and so avoid miserable IMITATIONS.

B. BRANDRETH, Pres't,
113-d&s Office, 294 Canal St., New York.

POLITICAL.

PITTSBURGH.

FOR CITY TREASURER,

J. F. DENNISTON,

TWENTIETH WARD, PITTSBURGH.

Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Election.

FOR CITY TREASURER,

THOS. S. MITCHELL,

Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR MAYOR,

S. J. WAINWRIGHT,

Subject to the Republican City Convention.

FOR MAYOR,

JARED M. BRUSH.

Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY CONTROLLER,

R. M. SNODGRASS,

Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,

R. B. BROWN.

Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

FOR CITY TREASURER,

SAMUEL KILGORE,

Subject to the decision of the City Republican Convention.

ALLEGHENY.

FOR MAYOR,

WALTON WOOLSEY,

ELEVENTH WARD, ALLEGHENY.

Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Election.

FOR MAYOR,

W. C. COOKE,

FIFTH WARD, ALLEGHENY,

Will be a candidate before the Republicans of Allegheny for the nomination of Mayor.

FOR MAYOR,

THOS. MEGRAW,

FIFTH WARD, ALLEGHENY,

Subject to the decision of the Republican Primary Meeting. 154

One of the Wonders.

The hall was crowded, for a celebrated scientist was lecturing on the processes of "Taste and Digestion." A solemn-looking young man, with expansive brow and blue spectacles, came in late with a young lady, and the two took their reserved seats near the platform. Both listened attentively to the lucid explanation of the various operations of their internal organs, and gazed in awe at the magnified views with which the Professor illustrated his lecture. At length she turned and whispered, "Isn't it wonderful?" "Yes," he replied, "if true.'

A Marriage Postponed.

We read that the marriage of a Newark belle to a rising New York lawyer has been postponed for a rather peculiar reason. The young man, while exercising with Indian clubs, "accidentally struck his prospective mother-in-law, breaking several of her ribs." The joke comes in "accidentally." If he didn't want her to accompany him on his wedding tour, he should have read her the imaginary reports of several frightful railroad accidents, instead of brutally caving in her ribs.

Mrs. Lincoln as a Shrew.

A letter in the Nashville *Banner* thus gossips about Mrs. and Mr. Lincoln: "'You Abe Lincoln!' was a favorite expression of hers, shouted out with the asperity usually accompanying this sentence, and I think it was greater than a President's fame that he should have so quietly taken the usage it is said she used to administer. It is told that on the night the returns were to have been in, as he started out of the house for the telegraph office, she sweetly remarked, 'You Abe Lincoln, if you're not in by ten the doors will be locked.' He was not in, and sure enough he found the doors barred. Rapping and ringing brought her to the window. 'Who's there?' she shouted. Calling her by name, he assured her that his long legs carried no ghost or burglar. She wouldn't let him in for love or money, and so those long legs had to carry the chief magistrate to some hotel.'"

DRY GOODS, TRIMMINGS. DRY GOODS, TRIMMINGS. DRY GOODS, TRIMMINGS.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1876.

NEW CHRISTMAS GOODS

—AT—

WILLIAM SEMPLE'S, NOS. 165, 167 AND 169 FEDERAL ST., ALLEGHENY, PA.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT.

From present indications it will be an utter impossibility, even with our increased force to meet the wants of our patrons on Saturday of this week, and that over-crowding may in a manner be lessened, our store will be open on THURSDAY AND FRIDAY EVENINGS additional to our regular Saturday evening until nine o'clock.

GOODS FOR THE HOLIDAYS.

A most suitable gift for a Christmas present, and which our stock offers unsurpassed attractions, would be a dress pattern of any material.

DRESS SILKS.

Our Silk Department is at it has been during the season, full, fresh and complete, and at prices lower nowhere in the United states.
At 87½c and 95c, good heavy Black Dress Silks.
At $1 and $1.25, extra heavy Gros Grain Black Silks.
At $1.37½, very superior Gros Grain Black Silks.
At $1.50 to $4.50, special good value in Gros Grain and "Hand-spun" Black Dress Silks.
At $1, Seal and assorted Brown Dress Silks.
At $1 25 to $2.50, extra value in choicest shades Colored Silks, much under value.
While our lines of Mourning and Fancy Dress Silks, including Brocade Silks, is specially attractive in variety and prices.
At 25 to 50c, extra good Black and Colored Cashmeres.
At 60 and 62½c, extra bargain in Colored Merinos.
At 65c to $1, superior value in Black and Colored Cashmeres.
Having made a large and most advantageous purchase of these goods, the value offered cannot be excelled.
At 10 and 12½c, choice seasonable Dress Goods.
At 12½, Knickerbocker Suitings, worth 25c.
At 18¾c, all-wool Striped Oversuitings.
At 18¾ to 25c, Fine Colored Cashmeres.
At 25c, newest shades in Basket Cloth Goods.
At 25c to $1.50, beautiful line of latest effects in Dress Goods, of all textures and in all shades, suitable for promenade and interior wear, at the lowest prices.
At 12½ and 15c, best makes and styles Tycoon Reppe.
Full and very complete stock of Medium and Deep Mourning Goods.
AT LOWEST PRICES.

SUITABLE PRESENTS!!!

A most substantial gift for a Christmas present, of which we have a very full and complete assortment, would be a Sacque or Shawl, &c.

NEW SACQUES.

Our line of Ladies' Sacques and Cloaks being especially complete at present and at such low prices, offers inducements to purchasers better than ever.
At $3, Ladies' all-Wool Grey Sacques.
At $3, Ladies' Beaver Cloth Sacques.
At $3, Ladies' Rough Cloth Sacques.
At $5 and $6, Ladies' Matalasse Sacques, bought very low and worth $10 and $12.

NEW CLOAKS.

Our Sacques and Cloaks are all latest styles, extra length and superior in make to many others.
Velvet and Silk Sacques at low prices.
A special bargain is offered in a few Real Sealskin Sacques, all latest style and long shape.

NEW FURS.

A large and very complete assortment of all the various kinds of Ladies', Misses' and Children's Furs, offered at extremely low prices.
A new and choice variety of Muff and Shawls, of the most fashionable styles at very low prices.

UNDERWEAR.

Ladies', Misses' and Children's Merino and Scarlet all-Wool Under-wear.
Infants' outfits of all kinds.
Ladies', Misses' and Children's Skirts, in Balmoral, Felt, Cloth, Scarlet and Alpaca, and a full and large variety of Muslin Underwear.
AT POPULAR PRICES.

HOLIDAY ATTRACTIONS!

A most useful gift for a Christmas present, of which our stock embraces all grades, would be a pair of Blankets or Woolen Goods of any kind.

BED COMFORTS.

At $1.20, good heavy Bed Comforts.
At $1.35, very heavy Bed Comforts, our own make.
At $1 60, extra heavy Calico Comforts.

BLANKETS.

At $1.20 upwards, heavy Brown Blankets.
At $2 25, 1¼ White Wool Blankets.
At $4.50 1¼ White Wool Country Blankets.
At $1.87½ 5 lb. heavy German Coverlets.
At $1.25 up, extra good Horse Blankets.
At $3.00 up, full size Husk Mattresses.

FLANNELS, &C.

Flannels of all kinds, Waterproof Cloths, Sacquing Cloths, Goods for Men's Wear, &c., offered at very lowest prices and superior values.
Gents', Youths' and Boys' Ready-made Clothing for winter. Overcoats, &c., cut and made in best manner and latest styles.
Boots, Shoes, Gaiters and Slippers, for Ladies, Misses, Children and Gents. Gents' Morocco and Fancy Sewed Slippers, at much less than usual prices for same.
Ladies' Suits and Costumes, Overdresses and Polonaises in materials of Alpaca, Poplin, Cashmere, Brocades, Merinos, Black and Colored Silks.
Special attention given to Mourning Outfits, and suits to order at short notice, same being delivered within a few hours after measure.
AT ATTRACTIVE PRICES.

Christmas for the Children.

Little gifts for Christmas presents, of which we offer a most attractive stock in Fancy Articles, Toys, Notions, &c., at very lowest prices.

TOYS! TOYS!

A full and complete stock of Toys of every description, as well as the more useful and substantial Toys, Dolls, Wooden Toys, Books, &c., we have now in stock and offer all at much less than usual prices.

LINEN SETTS, &C.

Ladies' Plain, Fancy and Embroidered Linen Setts of Collars and Cuffs.
Plain, Hemmedstitched, Fancy Bordered, Embroidered and Initial Handkerchiefs, Lace Handkerchiefs, &c.
Beautiful line Fancy Boxes for Handkerchiefs, Candy, &c.
New Novelties in Neck Ruchings and Neckwear of all kinds.

FANCY GOODS.

Lace Tidies and Toilet Sets in all the latest novelties.
A

FINANCIAL.

SHOE AND LEATHER BANK.

Cor: Diamond and Wood Streets,

In Germania Bank Building

PITTSBURGH, PA.

CAPITAL, ... $200,000

D. E. DAVIDSON, President.
JOHN D. FRASER, Cashier.

Deposits received and interest allowed on Time Deposits. Particular attention given to collections and proceeds promptly remitted.

DAILY GAZETTE.

FINANCIAL.

Latest Advices Concerning Money and Stock Matters.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, } FRIDAY, December 22, 1876. }

The holiday business is just now the most important we have. At the banks matters move evenly on with but little change. The business of the day in the loan market was only moderate. The offerings of paper by the packers were perhaps larger, but in other directions the applications for accommodation were not extensive. Discount lines, as a whole, are represented to be well filled. The difference between good times and slow times is not seen so much at this as at other seasons. The banks can always find full employment for their funds at this time of the year. Rediscounts are asked for by the country banks, though not to the same extent as earlier in the season. Counter business was limited.

Rates of discount at the banks were 8@10 per cent. to regular customers, with special rates in special cases.

THE RISE IN SILVER.

We have spoken of the remarkable advance in silver. It would be a curious coincidence, if, when the House has declared in favor of making silver a legal tender, the advance in price should take it out of the market, as currency, and make it, as gold has long been, an article of merchandise. On a basis of 55½d. per ounce, English standard, our circulating silver—the halves, quarters and dimes—is worth, with gold at 107½, nearly 98¾ cents in greenbacks. An advance of two per cent. in the gold premium, or a small advance in the European market in the price of silver, would carry our silver change above par, and naturally out of the market, as a circulating medium, and make it valuable as a merchantable commodity. If this contingency should occur, a "change famine" might follow. The U. S. Treasurer, in pursuance of the plan for substituting silver for fractional currency, has paid out $34,456,756 of silver, and has cancelled, or will cancel, an equal amount of fractional currency. On the 30th of June, 1875, the amount of fractional currency outstanding was $42,129,424.19; on the first of December, 1876, the amount was but $27,408,508.98. This reduction has been great enough to make the mercantile community largely dependent upon the continued circulation of silver as "change." There is no reason to expect the advance in gold which will carry silver above par of paper, but the advance in the price of silver itself is among the possibilities.

COUNTERFEITS.

The investigations of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department have developed the singular fact that every denomination of National-Bank currency has during the existence of the National Banking laws, been counterfeited,—some of the National-Bank note plates have been counterfeited as many as thirty times and many of them twenty times; also that, during the whole of that time, the United States greenback currency has only been twice counterfeited. The only counterfeits that have been developed upon the greenbacks were of the $50 and $500 plates, and they were so poorly executed that they were detected almost as soon as they appeared, and the issue was at once called in by the Treasurer, and new plates of different designs were engraved in their place. The commentary upon these facts is this: That the United States greenback-plates were engraved in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and all the National Bank note-plates by the different bank-note companies. The superiority of the work done under the eyes of the accomplished Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has always proved too difficult and too costly for the makers of spurious money to successfully imitate.

AUSTRIAN PAPER MONEY.

The paper money of Austria has depreciated in consequence of the Eastern troubles, but silver has become higher than since 1872, and gold than since 1867. The premium on silver is 12½ per cent.; in July, 1875, it had fallen to ¾ per cent.; in 1872, when it last stood at 12 per cent., there was then no difference between the gold and silver premium, whilst the premium on gold has risen to 27 per cent.

BOSTON SAVINGS BANKS.

The increase in the Boston five-cent savings bank during the official year ending Nov. 1, was over $1,250,000. The total increase in all the banks of the State was some ten millions, and the whole amount of deposits and surplus is now in the neighborhood of $250,000,000. This is a very large sum, and its amount shows that there have been no systematic withdrawals of deposits in consequence of the hard times.

CHATTEL MORGAGE DECISION.

The Supreme Court of the United States has just affirmed the principls that declarations made by the holder of a chattel mortgage or a promissory note while he holds it are not competent evidence in a suit upon it, or in relation to it by a subsequent owner.

Robinson Bros., Brokers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following quotations of bonds and stocks from the latest advices by telegraph:

Gold	107	5-20's 1868-coupons	117¾
U. S. 6's 1881, coup	117¾	10-40's	113
" 1865	117¾	5's, coupons	111¾
" 1865 new	113¾	New 5 per cents	111¾
6-20's 1867	116	10-40's coupons	113

RAILWAYS.

N.Y. Central	103¾	Ohio & Mississippi	6
Erie	9¾	Union Pacific	58¾
L. S.	66¾	Toledo & Wabash	4¾
C., C., A. & I. C.	20	Pacific Mail	19¾
St. Paul	38¾	Adams Express	101¾
Do. Pref	84¾	American Express	53
Lake Shore	72¾	U. S. Express	80
Do. Central	67	W. Fargo & Co. Ex	87¾
Northwestern com.	48¾	Quicksilver	18
Do. Pref	61½	Mort Wayne	100
Rock Island	101¾	Hannibal & St. Jo.	13¾
Clevc. & Pittsb.	93¾	Ontario	12
Pacific Mail	24¾	Iron Mountain	17
Western Union Tel.	72¾	N. J. Central	35½
Delaware, L. & W.	97		

Robinson Bros furnish the following quotations of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board.

F. R. R.	48	Cen. Transf(S)	49
Reading (B.)	20	Empire do. (A.)	50
U. Cos. of N. J. (B.)	138¾	A. V. H. T. (B)	104½
Oil Creek	61½	Penna.	57½
Lehigh Valley (B.)	49	N. Pacific bonds (A 1)	18

NEW YORK, December 21, 1876.

Money was easier at 4@6; prime mercantile paper 5@7. The customs receipts were $267,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $194,000. The clearings were $18,000,000. Sterling was firm at 482½@484. Gold was steady at 107⅞@107¾. The carrying rates were 2 to 5. Silver $1.21¼ per ounce. Governments were dull and firm, with a moderate advance in some instances. Railroad bonds were quiet and prices well maintained. State securities were quiet. The stock market was strong and higher for coal road shares on an improvement in prices for coal, and weak and lower for St. Pauls, Lake Shore, Pacific Mail and Illinois Central. The dividend of the latter has been reduced to 5 per cent., hence the decline in the stock today. Consolidated Coal was advanced 1½ for common and 27 for preferred. Adams Express was strong and advanced to 101¼. The other changes were unimportant. The transactions were 115,000 shares, of which 7,000 were Pacific Mail, 17,000 Western Union, 13,000 St. Paul, 5,000 Erie, 18,000 Lake Shore, 2,000 New York Central, 4,400 Ohios, 2,000 Wabash, 22,000 Michigan Central, 13,000 Lackawanna, and 7,000 New Jersey Central.

The steamship Rhein, from Liverpool, brought $64,000 in specie.

Government.—United States Coupons 1881, 117½; 5-20s '65, 106½; do. '65 new, 112¾; do. '67, 113; do. '68, 113½; new 5s, 112¾; do. '67, 113; do. '68, 113½; new 4½s, 106½; do. 10-40s, 113; do. coupons, 113; currency 6s, 121½.

State Bonds.—Tennessee old, 40½; do. new, 40¼; Virginia new, 29; do. new, 29; Missouri 6s, 107½.

Stocks.—Western Union Telegraph Company, 72; Quicksilver, 18; do. preferred, 18¾; Pacific Mail, 24¼; Mariposa, 6½; do. preferred, 7; Adams Express, 102; Wells, Fargo & Company's Express, 102; American Express, 55½; United States Express, 53¼; New York Central, 103½; Erie, 9¼; do. preferred, 17½; Harlem, 136; do. preferred, 133; Michigan Central, 46½; do. preferred, 120; Panama, 125; Union Pacific, 58, ex div.; Lake Shore, 59½; Illinois Central, 69½; Cleveland & Pittsburgh, 89½; New Jersey Central, 86½; C. C. C. & I., 86½; North western common, 36½; do. preferred, 55½; Rock Island, 101½; St. Paul, 19½; do. preferred, 57½; Fort Wayne, 100; Toledo & Wabash, 4½; do. preferred, 5; Terre Haute, 2½; do. prefered, 15; Chicago & Alton, 99; do. preferred, 108; Ohio & Mississippi, 6; Delaware & Lackawanna, 71½; Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph Company, 14½; Missouri Pacific, 8½; Atlantic & Pacific preferred, 33; Indiana Central, 2½; Burlington & Quincy, 144; Hannibal & St. Joseph, 13½; Central Pacific, 119½; Union Pacific, 105½; Union Pacific land grant, 100 1-8; Union Pacific sinking fund, 90¾.

LONDON, December 21. — The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £230,000 in the past week. The proportion of bank reserve to liability is 51¾ per cent. Consols, 93 15-16; 5-20s of '65, 104¾; do. '67, 107¾; 10-40s, 107¾; new 5s, 106¾; New York Central, 102; Erie, 9 1-8; do. preferred, 18.

PARIS, December 21.—The specie in the Bank of France increased 5,198,000 francs the past week. Rentes, 105f 17½c.

FRANKFORT, December 21.—U. S. new 5s, 101¾.

COMMERCIAL.

Condition of the Markets at Home and Abroad.

PITTSBURGH MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, } THURSDAY, Dec. 21, 1876. }

The leading articles of general merchandise were dull to-day as usual, and without any new or important features. As will be seen, we have advanced our quotations for lard slightly. Coffee has weakened. Flour and Grain continue firm but unchanged. Butter, Beans, Cheese, Eggs and Potatoes in fair demand, but the inquiry is for small lots to supply immediate actual wants.

APPLES—Sales in a small jobbing way at $1a $1.50 per bbl. for fair to choice fruit.

APPLE-BUTTER—Dull; quoted at 33a40c ₩ gallon in kegs, and 45a55c in small packages.

BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—3½a4 cents.

BROOM CORN—Hurl, 6a6½c; choice brush that will work up, 5a5½; choice covers 4½a5; choice insiding and covers, 4½; inferior and mixed, 4a4½; crooked, 2½a3, as to color and quality.

BROOMS—There is a continued fair trade, although orders are not coming forward as freely as they did last month. We continue to quote 'Union' factory as follows:

No 5 extra Parlor	do.	4	do.	2	25
No 4	do.	3	do.	2	00
No 3	do.	2	do.	1	75
No 3 carpet	do.	4	do.	2	50
No 2 carpet	do.	3	do.	2	25
No 1 carpet	do.	3	do.	2	00
No 6 Hurl Palated Brace		4	do.	2	75
No 3 Hat	Varnished	3	do.	2	50
No 4 Hurl	do.	3	do.	2	25
No 3 Hurl	do.	3	do.	2	00
No 2 Hurl—plain handle	Brace	2	do.	1	75
No 1 Hurl	do.	2	do.	1	50

We have spoken of the remarkable advance in silver. It would be a curious coincidence, if, when the House has declared in favor of making silver a legal tender, the advance in price should take it out of the market, as currency, and make it, as gold has long been, an article of merchandise. On a basis of 55½d. per ounce, English standard, our circulating silver—the halves, quarters and dimes—is worth, with gold at 107½, nearly 98¾ cents in greenbacks. An advance of two per cent. in the gold premium, or a small advance in the European market in the price of silver, would carry our silver change above par, and naturally out of the market, as a circulating medium, and make it valuable as a merchantable commodity. If this contingency should occur, a "change famine" might follow. The U. S. Treasurer, in pursuance of the plan for substituting silver for fractional currency, has paid out $34,456,756 of silver, and has cancelled, or will cancel, an equal amount of fractional currency. On the 30th of June, 1875, the amount of fractional currency outstanding was $42,129,424.19; on the first of December, 1876, the amount was but $27,408,508.98. This reduction has been great enough to make the mercantile community largely dependent upon the continued circulation of silver as "change." There is no reason to expect the advance in gold which will carry silver above par of paper, but the advance in the price of silver itself is among the possibilities.

COUNTERFEITS.

The investigations of the Secret Service Division of the Treasury Department have developed the singular fact that every denomination of National-Bank currency has during the existence of the National Banking laws, been counterfeited,—some of the National-Bank note plates have been counterfeited as many as thirty times and many of them twenty times; also that, during the whole of that time, the United States greenback currency has only been twice counterfeited. The only counterfeits that have been developed upon the greenbacks were of the $50 and $500 plates, and they were so poorly executed that they were detected almost as soon as they appeared, and the issue was at once called in by the Treasurer, and new plates of different designs were engraved in their place. The commentary upon these facts is this: That the United States greenback-plates were engraved in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and all the National Bank note-plates by the different bank-note companies. The superiority of the work done under the eyes of the accomplished Chief of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing has always proved too difficult and too costly for the makers of spurious money to successfully imitate.

AUSTRIAN PAPER MONEY.

The paper money of Austria has depreciated in consequence of the Eastern troubles, but silver has become higher than since 1872, and gold than since 1867. The premium on silver is 12½ per cent.; in July, 1875, it had fallen to ¾ per cent.; in 1872, when it last stood at 12 per cent., there was then no difference between the gold and silver premium, whilst the premium on gold has risen to 27 per cent.

BOSTON SAVINGS BANKS.

The increase in the Boston five-cent savings bank during the official year ending Nov. 1, was over $1,250,000. The total increase in all the banks of the State was some ten millions, and the whole amount of deposits and surplus is now in the neighborhood of $250,000,000. This is a very large sum, and its amount shows that there have been no systematic withdrawals of deposits in consequence of the hard times.

CHATTEL MORGAGE DECISION.

The Supreme Court of the United States has just affirmed the principls that declarations made by the holder of a chattel morgage or a promissory note while he holds it are not competent evidence in a suit upon it, or in relation to it by a subsequent owner.

Robinson Bros., Brokers, No. 78 Fourth avenue, furnish the following quotations of bonds and stocks from the latest advices by telegraph:

Gold	107	5-20's 1868-coupons	117¾
U. S. 6's 1881, coup	117¾	10-40's	113
" 1865	117¾	5's, coupons	111¾
" 1865 new	113¾	New 5 per cents	111¾
6-20's 1867	116	10-40's coupons	113

RAILWAYS.

N.Y. Central	103¾	Ohio & Mississippi	6
Erie	9¾	Union Pacific	58¾
L. S.	66¾	Toledo & Wabash	4¾
C., C., A. & I. C.	20	Pacific Mail	19¾
St. Paul	38¾	Adams Express	101¾
Do. Pref	84¾	American Express	53
Lake Shore	72¾	U. S. Express	80
Do. Central	67	W. Fargo & Co. Ex	87¾
Northwestern com.	48¾	Quicksilver	18
Do. Pref	61½	Mort Wayne	100
Rock Island	101¾	Hannibal & St. Jo.	13¾
Clevc. & Pittsb.	93¾	Ontario	12
Pacific Mail	24¾	Iron Mountain	17
Western Union Tel.	72¾	N. J. Central	35½
Delaware, L. & W.	97		

Robinson Bros furnish the following quotations of active stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board.

F. R. R.	48	Cen. Transf(S)	49
Reading (B.)	20	Empire do. (A.)	50
U. Cos. of N. J. (B.)	138¾	A. V. H. T. (B)	104½
Oil Creek	61½	Penna.	57½
Lehigh Valley (B.)	49	N. Pacific bonds (A 1)	18

NEW YORK, December 21, 1876.

Money was easier at 4@6; prime mercantile paper 5@7. The customs receipts were $267,000. The Assistant Treasurer disbursed $194,000. The clearings were $18,000,000. Sterling was firm at 482½@484. Gold was steady at 107⅞@107¾. The carrying rates were 2 to 5. Silver $1.21¼ per ounce. Governments were dull and firm, with a moderate advance in some instances. Railroad bonds were quiet and prices well maintained. State securities were quiet. The stock market was strong and higher for coal road shares on an improvement in prices for coal, and weak and lower for St. Pauls, Lake Shore, Pacific Mail and Illinois Central. The dividend of the latter has been reduced to 5 per cent., hence the decline in the stock today. Consolidated Coal was advanced 1½ for common and 27 for preferred. Adams Express was strong and advanced to 101¼. The other changes were unimportant. The transactions were 115,000 shares, of which 7,000 were Pacific Mail, 17,000 Western Union, 13,000 St. Paul, 5,000 Erie, 18,000 Lake Shore, 2,000 New York Central, 4,400 Ohios, 2,000 Wabash, 22,000 Michigan Central, 13,000 Lackawanna, and 7,000 New Jersey Central.

The steamship Rhein, from Liverpool, brought $64,000 in specie.

Government.—United States Coupons 1881, 117½; 5-20s '65, 106½; do. '65 new, 112¾; do. '67, 113; do. '68, 113½; new 5s, 112¾; do. '67, 113; do. '68, 113½; new 4½s, 106½; do. 10-40s, 113; do. coupons, 113; currency 6s, 121½.

State Bonds.—Tennessee old, 40½; do. new, 40¼; Virginia new, 29; do. new, 29; Missouri 6s, 107½.

Stocks.—Western Union Telegraph Company, 72; Quicksilver, 18; do. preferred, 18¾; Pacific Mail, 24¼; Mariposa, 6½; do. preferred, 7; Adams Express, 102; Wells, Fargo & Company's Express, 102; American Express, 55½; United States Express, 53¼; New York Central, 103½; Erie, 9¼; do. preferred, 17½; Harlem, 136; do. preferred, 133; Michigan Central, 46½; do. preferred, 120; Panama, 125; Union Pacific, 58, ex div.; Lake Shore, 59½; Illinois Central, 69½; Cleveland & Pittsburgh, 89½; New Jersey Central, 86½; C. C. C. & I., 86½; North western common, 36½; do. preferred, 55½; Rock Island, 101½; St. Paul, 19½; do. preferred, 57½; Fort Wayne, 100; Toledo & Wabash, 4½; do. preferred, 5; Terre Haute, 2½; do. prefered, 15; Chicago & Alton, 99; do. preferred, 108; Ohio & Mississippi, 6; Delaware & Lackawanna, 71½; Atlantic & Pacific Telegraph Company, 14½; Missouri Pacific, 8½; Atlantic & Pacific preferred, 33; Indiana Central, 2½; Burlington & Quincy, 144; Hannibal & St. Joseph, 13½; Central Pacific, 119½; Union Pacific, 105½; Union Pacific land grant, 100 1-8; Union Pacific sinking fund, 90¾.

LONDON, December 21. — The bullion in the Bank of England decreased £230,000 in the past week. The proportion of bank reserve to liability is 51¾ per cent. Consols, 93 15-16; 5-20s of '65, 104¾; do. '67, 107¾; 10-40s, 107¾; new 5s, 106¾; New York Central, 102; Erie, 9 1-8; do. preferred, 18.

PARIS, December 21.—The specie in the Bank of France increased 5,198,000 francs the past week. Rentes, 105f 17½c.

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COMMERCIAL.

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BUCKWHEAT FLOUR—3½a4 cents.

BROOM CORN—Hurl, 6a6½c; choice brush that will work up, 5a5½; choice covers 4½a5; choice insiding and covers, 4½; inferior and mixed, 4a4½; crooked, 2½a3, as to color and quality.

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No 2 Hurl—plain handle	Brace	2	do.	1	75
No 1 Hurl	do.	2	do.	1	50

Patent Screw Ferule (plain handles, velvet finish—Wood, 4-sewed, weight 2½ | 4 | 75
Railroad, Steamboat, Mill and Stable (Hardwood) plain 3-8 | 4 do. | 2 | 00
Whisks (6, 8 and 10 and 12 inch) Velvet | 2 | 1 | 50
Do. do. do. Plain | 1 | 25
Do. Barber (12 and 14 inch) Plain | 1 | 50
Toy (Fancy Handles, 10 and 12 inch) Velvet | 2 | 1 | 50
Do. do. do. Plain | 2 | 25
Misses (Velvet | 2 | 25

BUTTER—There is a continued fair demand for prime table Butter, but no improvement in prices; we continue to quote prime to choice rolls at 22a25c. Common and medium grades are very dull, and in heavy supply.

BEANS—In fair demand and the market is firm with prices advancing; we can report sales within the past few days of several round lots; we now quote to the wholesale trade, at $1.75 per bushel, and $1.80 in a small way.

BELTING—The discount on the article has been so large for some time past that manufacturers complain they could not get cost, and now prices are about advancing all round. Already we have seen a new list, issued by one of the largest manufacturers in the United States, increasing the list price in all sizes to 50 and 10 off, and a reduction of 10 to 15 per cent, less discount than has been allowed heretofore in old list. For the present we insert prices at old list, but it is possible the new list may be in operation ere this. We quote:

Inch.	Per Foot	Inch.	Per Foot
1	12	5½	60
2	13	6	66
2½	25	7	78
3	30	8	90
3½	36	10	1 14
4	42	12	1 38
4½	48	14	1 62

Discount 25 to 35 per cent. as to quality and quantity and chemical tannages.

CRANBERRIES—Selling at $8a10 per bbl.

CIDER—Very dull, and while the receipts recently have been small, the supply is fully equal to the demand; quotations are still maintained.

CHEESE—Continues quiet and unchanged. Prime Ohio Factory is still quoted at 14a14½ to the wholesale trade, and 15a15½c in a jobbing way. "Young Americas" quoted in a jobbing way at 18; "Nutmegs," 17c.

CEMENT, &c.—Cements are firmer in consequence of advanced rail freights. Portland, $6½ ₩ bbl; Rosendale, $2.75; Youghiogheny, $1.75; Mills & Co.'s, $2; Louisville, $2. Calcined Plaster —French's, $4; New York, $3.50. Land Plaster, $4 White Lime, $1.25a1.30.

COOPERAGE—There is an increased demand for Oil Barrel cooperage, and with very light receipts, caused by the suspension of navigation, prices are higher. Jointed staves, ⅞; bucked and ended, $30; West Virginia—none on sale. Circled Heading, 22c per set; sawed square do, 14½ per m for dry and $40 for green. Oil Barrels also firm and higher; dry, 90c; green, 85c; tierces, 60c.

CORDAGE & ROPE—There is no improvement to report in the demand, and prices, which will be found annexed, have undergone no recent change:

MANILLA ROPE.

⅝ inch diameter and upwards	15¼ cts. per lb
½ "	16¾ "
⅜ and 5-16 in. diameter	16¾ "
Tarred rope and lath yarn	14¾ "
Hay, stave and shaft twine	14¾ "

OIL WELL DRILLING CABLES.

Hawser laid	15¼ cts. per lb
" " Roll Rope Yarns	16¾ "
Sand Pump Rope	18¾ "

SASH CORD.

⅝ inch diameter and upward	11¾ cts. per lb
½ "	12¾ "
⅜ and 5-16 in. diameter	13¾ "
Hay, spoke and leather twine	11¾ "
Lath Yarn	11¾ "

DRIED FRUITS—The market for all kinds of dried fruit, both foreign and domestic, dull; dealers generally in Apples and Peaches report that they are scarcely doing enough to establish prices.

DRESSED HOGS—Receipts as yet small, but there is not much inquiry, and prices remain unchanged, 6¾a7c.

DRIED PEAS—The new crop of Canada green is in good demand at $1.80 ₩ bu in round lots, and $1.75 in a jobbing way.

EGGS—Fresh, guaranteed as such, very scarce and quoted firm at 27a28. Pickled in good supply and dull but unchanged; 20a23c.

FISH—Following are the current rates in a jobbing way:

	₩ bbl.	half bbl.
Split Labrador Herring	7 50	
Round Herring	6 00	per bbl
White Fish		5 25
Lake Trout		4 50
Lake Pickerel		3 50
Mackerel		2 50
Large Georges Codfish		6½c ₩ lb
Boneless Codfish		7c
Herring		1¾ ₩ lb
No 1 Herring		35c ₩ box
Scaled do		90c
Red. or Mess Mackerel	$27	00
Ex o 1 Shore	20	00
No 1 Shore	18	00
No 1 Bay	18	00
No 1 Bay	15	00
Ex No 2 Large	12	50
No 2 Medium	11	00
No 3 Large	11	00
No 3 Medium	9	50

FLOUR—We have to report a continued firm market, and while the demand is only fair in consequence of the near approach of the new year, the tendency is still upward. Unless there is a reaction in Wheat a further appreciation in the value of flour appears almost inevitable, for good standard Spring and Winter wheat in spring, $6.75a7; ambers, $7.35a7.50; patents and fancy white wheat, $8a9. Rye Flour, $4.50a5.

GRAIN—Wheat continues very scarce, and it looks as if prices here would have to go still higher. Millers, from all that we can learn, are unwilling to pay more than $1.40 for good standard red winter, but dealers claim that it cannot be laid down here and afford even an ordinary commission under $1.55. The Oat market continues rather quiet, and the feeling appears to be easier in consequence of increased receipts within the past few days, but prices are still maintained; mixed, 38a39; white, 40a41. Ear Corn continues very scarce, and with considerable inquiry would sell readily at 54a55c on track. Shelled quoted at 53a55 for new, and 56a58c for old. Rye is in fair demand but prices are no better; we have heard of no sales above 75. No. 2 spring Barley quoted at 73a80c, and dull.

GROCERIES—Coffee has reacted within the past 24 hours, and late New York advices report a decline of a ¼ there. Sugars reported firm, both at New York and New Orleans, although prices have undergone no change for several days. New Orleans Sugars at current rates are much cheaper than refined yellows, and the probability is that the latter will decline, as buyers will not pay the difference. Molasses in fair demand, and the same is true of Rice and Syrups, but prices remain unchanged.

SUGARS.

Cut Loaf	13¾	Standard A	11¾a11¾
Crushed	13¾a	Confectioners A	11¾a11¾
Granulated	12¾a	Standard Ex C	11¼a11¾
Powdered	13 a	N. O.	9¾a10¾

COFFEES.

Green.		Roasted.	
Choice	25	Best	27½
Prime	24	Choice Grade	26½
Fair	23	Third Grade	24½
Java	32	Java	36

Loose half a cent less.

SYRUPS.

Choice	60 a65	Fair	50 a55
Prime	55 a60	Dark	40 a45

MOLASSES.

Choice new crop N. O.	42a45c
Prime new crop N. O.	38a40c
Fair new crop N. O.	35c

GAME—Is reported dull and the market is well stocked. Venison—Saddles, 14a15c ₩ lb; do. Hams, 13a14c; Whole Deer, 8a10c; Prairie Chickens, $4a5 per doz; Pheasants, $2.75a3; Quail, $1.50a1.75 per dozen; Rabbits, 75a$1.25; Squirrels, 75a$1; Wild Ducks, $2a4; Wild Turkeys, $1a1.50 each.

HAY—The market continues quiet and unchanged. Loose selling at $12a15 per ton from country wagons; baled, on wharf and track, $12a15, as to quality and condition.

MILL FEED—Bran, $13.50a13 per ton; Seconds Shorts and Shipstuffs, $13a16; Chopped Feed, $19a21; Middlings, $20a22.

OILS—Procter & Gamble's double Extra lard oil, 55a57c; W. Alexander & Co.'s extra, 55a57; No. 1, 77a82; No. 2, 60a65; white winter Miner's oil, 60a63; yellow do, 55a58. Carbon very firm at the recent advance; 27c to the wholesale trade and 1a2c more in a small way.

ONIONS—In fair demand, but quiet and unchanged; $1.50a2 ₩ bbl.

POULTRY—Dressed Chickens, 10a11c ₩ lb; do. Turkeys, 12a14; do Ducks, 11a13; do Geese, 8a9. Live Chickens, 40a50 ₩ pair; do. Turkeys 70a80.

POTATOES—The arrivals continue light, and with a steady demand, a small supply, prices are tending upward; we continue to quote a jobbing way from store, at $1.15a1.25 ₩ bushel, the outside figure for choice Peach Blows. It is but proper to state, however, that some holders were asking $1.30a1.35 to-day.

PROVISIONS—As will be seen, we have advanced our quotations for Lard, and Mess Pork should also be higher, taking the cost in the west into consideration, but there is very little of it sold here.

Hams—Ex S C ₩ lb	13	Lard, prime leaf, tes	11¾
Shoulders Ex S. C	9¾	Do. Hf bbls	11¾
B'fast Bacon S. C	13	Do. bkts	12¾
Dried beef Ex S. C	15	Do. 3 ₩ caddies	14
Beef Tongues S. C. per doz	$6¾	Do. 5 ₩ do	13¾
Clear Sides	10¾	Do. 3 ₩ pails	14
Bacon Shoulders	7¾	Do. 5 ₩ do	13¾
Short Rib Sides	9¾	Do. 6 ₩ do	—
Mess Pork ₩ bbl	$18,00	Pigs feet (half bbls	4 75
Short Cut do	18.00	Do. (kegs)	2 40
RAGS—Steady at 2¾c ₩ ₩ for good country mixed.		Ham Sausage	9¾

SUMAC—4¾c.

SEEDS—There is little or no movement in this market, and in the absence of sales we omit quotations.

TALLOW—Is easier; city quoted at 8¾c per lb; country, 7¾c.

WHITE LEAD—At a meeting of manufacturers in Cincinnati last week, it was agreed to reduce the price to 9c ₩ lb for ten lots.

WINDOW GLASS—Trade continues dull, but prices remain unchanged. Discounts off western list, 40 and 10 per cent. by the car load, and 40 for smaller quantities.

PITTSBURGH LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH GAZETTE, } THURSDAY, December 21, 1875. }

ARRIVALS.

Following shows the arrivals of each day during the past week, as well as the aggregate, and the aggregate of the preceding week:

	Cattle.	Local.	Hogs.	Sheep.
Friday	66 cars.	9 cars.	36 cars.	7 cars.
Saturday	6 "	4 "	3 "	3 "
Sunday	55 "	12 "	43 "	12 "
Monday	— "	29 "	14 "	11 "
Tuesday	15 "	33 "	25 "	19 "
Wednesday	— "	26 "	18 "	7 "
Thursday	5 "	11 "	37 "	6 "
Total	147 "	134 "	197 "	66 "
Last week	228 "	175 "	212 "	96 "

CATTLE.

The run during the past week has been a light one, showing a falling off of 79 cars of through and 41 cars of local, or in the aggregate 120 cars less, as compared with the preceding week. With such a decided falling off in the supply and more favorable advices from Philadelphia, our main stand-by, trade was more active; all grades of fat cattle were advanced 12a15c ₩ cwt, and even at the advance the supply of the kind to which reference has been made was unequal to the demand. In some instances an advance of 25c was realized, but we do not think the average improvement exceeded the figures named, and there was no disputing that the general position of the market was favorable to sellers, more so than it has been for some time past. As regards stockers and feeding cattle, there was no perceptible change in prices, but, in sympathy with other qualities, there was a firmer feeling.

The sales for the week ending at noon to-day were 172 cars, of which 75 cars were bought to go to Philadelphia; 25 cars to New York, and the remainder, 72 cars, were taken by country dealers and local buyers. Preceding week, while the offerings were considerably larger the sales were less. When we left the yards this P. M. there were but 2 or 3 cars remaining unsold, while some of the Philadelphia buyers were still wanting to buy more.

Included in the sales this week were the following: 55 good, 1,180 Colorado steers at 4,55; 19 cows and heifers at 3½@3¾; 68 good 1,225 Texans at 4¼c; 3 cars extra 1,400 Southern Ohios at 5,80; 1 car good 1,175 Kansas steers at 5; Joseph Myers sold about 100 head of stockers, weighing from 700 to 950 lbs, at 3,35a3,75 and 4c, the latter figure for feeders.

Prices may be fairly quoted as follows:

Extra 1,400@1,500 steers	5,40a5,60
Prime 1,200@1,300 steers	5,00a5,25
Good 1,000@1,100 steers	4,25a4,75
Stockers 700@800 lbs	3,25a3,60
Bulls, Cows and Stags	2,75a3,25

SHEEP.

The supply, as will be seen, was larger than that of the preceding week, and with a very light demand, no inquiry deserving of the name on New York account, the market has been one of the worst of the season. Prices on all grades dropped from ¼ to ½ a cent ₩ lb, the decline on the common and medium grades being the greatest, and some of the best drovers were shipped on, rather waiting to accept the decline. Eastern buyers, it appears, are apprehensive of bad markets east, in consequence of the abundance of poultry, game, etc., which always to a considerable extent takes the place of mutton during the holiday season, hence they bought sparingly even at the decline. Included in the following sales were 300 head of good 108 lb. Illinois wethers at 3; 2 cars do, 99 lbs, at 3¼; 2 cars good 112 lb. Kentucky's at 4¼; 1 car extra 141 lb Kentucky's, at 5,10; 1 car coarse wool 99 lb Missouri's, at 4; 1 car 90 lb lambs ewes, at 5,30. There was a car of extra 146 lb Kentucky wethers on sale to-day, for which 6¼ was bid and refused. Buyers were hard to draw out to-day at any price. Quotations may be given as follows:

Extra 115a130 lbs	5,25a5,75
Extra 90a100 lbs	4,25a4,50
Prime 85a90 lbs	3,75a4,00
Good 75a80 lbs	3,00a3,50
Common 70a75 lbs	2,50a2,75

HOGS

There has been a very fair run during the past week, but with a demand pretty well up to the supply, prices have been pretty well maintained. Yesterday and to day the market was a little weak on light weights, the arrivals of this particular grade having increased, and prices dropped 10a15c per cwt, as compared with the early part of the week. Good heavy weights, better known as Philadelphia hogs, have held their own all week, as the supply was scarcely equal to the demand. As long as prices keep up in the west, there is not likely to be much of a decline here, and, as noted in our report of last week, hogs are bringing fully as much if not more relatively in the western markets than can be obtained here

HOME NEWS.

The probabilities for to-day are threatening weather and light rain or snow, with southerly to westerly winds, and falling barometer during the day, followed during the night by colder, northerly to westerly winds and rising barometer.

Iron City College.

Corner Penn avenue and Sixth street, Pittsburgh. Day and evening sessions. Students admitted at any time. For terms call on, or address J. C. Smith, A. M. Principal.

Felt Dead.

Mr. Joseph Young, son of Mr. J. B. Young, proprietor of the foundry at the corner of Forty-second and Railroad streets, suddenly dropped dead yesterday at noon.

Obituary.

Mr. Stephen Dietrich, member of Select Council from the Fifteenth ward, died at his residence, No. 3,618 Butler street, Wednesday, at 4 o'clock P. M., after a brief illness, in his 62d year. The deceased was well known throughout the city having been a prominent local politician for a number of years. He was possessed of many commendable traits of character, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

Street Committee.

The Street Committee of Pittsburgh Councils held a special meeting last evening to take up the matter of the assessment of damages and benefits occasioned by the grading, paving and curbing of Locust street, from Shingiss to Miltenberger streets. The assessment was read. Mr. Weldon objected to it, but it was finally approved by a unanimous vote. A resolution was ordered to be returned to Councils for the paying John O'Keefe, assignee of A. Freyvogle, $52.50 for castings ed about four years ago for the Butt sewer. Adjourned.

A Fortunate Fall.

On Wednesday evening Miss Clifton, daughter of Mr. John Clifton, residing on Forty-second street, Seventeenth ward, went out after a bucket of coal. In the hall on her way back, she tripped on an upturned corner of the carpet, and fell, spilling about half her coal. She took what coal was left in the bucket, and put it in the fire. She then returned with a light to see what had caused her to fall, and to gather up the split coal. She was astonished beyond measure to find in the coal a large sized rattlesnake torpedo, and realized how narrowly she had escaped injury or possibly death. Her fall was a very fortunate one.

BURKE BOOKED.

Trial of Charles Burke for Shooting Thos. H. Hunter—The Defendant Enters a Plea of "Nolo Contendere" and is Remanded for Sentence.

The case of the Commonwealth vs. Chas. Burke, indicted for felonious assault and battery for shooting Thos. H. Hunter, on Wednesday evening succeeding the October election in Indiana, was taken up yesterday Messrs. Marshall, Carnahan and McCormick appeared for the prosecution while the prisoner was represented by Messrs. Pearson and Moore. The circumstances connected with the shooting of Mr. Hunter have all been published, and it is unnecessary to repeat them. Messrs. Hunter, McGilvary and Mellon were examined after which the defendant withdrew his plea of not guilty and entered a plea of *nolo contendere.*

The counsel for the defense explained to the court that they would not have started with the trial had it not been for the gross misstatements (?) in the public prints, respecting the previous reputation of this man. He was not, they said, the celebrated "Sailor" Burke of Philadelphia, but a man of previous good reputation, from that city, who would never have committed this deed if he had'nt been driven to it. They also stated that they had several witnesses from Philadelphia, and whom they wished the court to hear before sentence. The witnesses were heard. The first witness was a man who gave his name as McDonald, and said he was a court officer of the Common Pleas No. 4 of Philadelphia. He had known Burke for 12 years, and knew him to be an orderly, peaceable man. He was not the "Sailor" Burke, he said. He was asked on cross-examination what position in the court he held. He replied that he was a court officer, and that was all he only way he knew to describe it. "Well, what is he a judge?" No, he said; he was a tipstaff. He then, in response to questions, stated that Burke used to work in brick yards, and was at one time a watchman at the public buildings.

The next witness was a Mr. Lambie, of Philadelphia, who said that he was one of the Commissioners who had charge of the Public Square. His testimony was similar to that of McDonald. He knew him very well, but couldn't say whether he was a married man or not; he thought, however, he was; he didn't know how he happened to be in Pittsburgh, nor what he had been doing in October.

The next witness was a Mr. Forsythe, of Philadelphia, who said he was a butcher, and knew "Sailor" Burke. He was sure this man was not "Sailor." This man he had known for many years, and he always had a good reputation. He lived on Washington square, Philadelphia. He couldn't say whether he was married or not, nor what he had been doing in October.

"You say," said Mr. Marshall, he is not 'Sailor Burke,'"

"Yes, sir," said the witness.

"Is he a brother?," asked Mr. Marshall.

"He is," answered the witness.

There were only two character witnesses, and at the request of counsel for the defense, sentence was postponed until Saturday.

WELCOME HOME.

The Return of Robert J. Grier—His Arrival Generally Known But He Secretes Himself From Observation and Interrogation—Skirmishing for Him Last Night.

Very general interest was manifested throughout the city yesterday in the return of Robert J. Grier, now well known as the missing cashier of the Nation Trust Company, and many speculations were indulged in as to what course he would pursue, and what tale he would unfold when put upon the witness rack. He got back on Wednesday night, coming in on the Pennsylvania railroad, and spent the night at the residence of his brother on Grant avenue, Allegheny. In the morning he drove away to elude the reporters. He knew they would be after him in droves, and as the information that many of them possess would enable them to put soms very pertinent questions, he concluded to avoid the unpleasant duty of denying answers to reportorial interrogatories by visiting some of his friends. Not a representative of the press has yet been able to fasten a visual organ on Mr. Grier, so carefully has he kept himself from sight and maintained secrecy as to his whereabouts. And even he could be discovered it is not likely that he would say anything of special moment about the Nation Trust Company until his official statement has been made public. It was rumored that he was to meet last night with the counsel for the stockholders of the bank and commence an inspection of the books. He may have done so, but the meeting was not held at the Ralston school house, Schoyer's however, a small attraction in comparison with the prices, which have been marked down in every department. From a needle to a magnificent Opera cloak may there be had, goods for gentlemen as well as ladies, and every article first-class. Specialties this season are made of cloaks, underwear, gents' furnishing goods, gloves, hosiery, and woolen goods, and there is something new in patterns in every department.

F. B. Eaton & Co.

are found at the old stand, No. 35 Fifth avenue, with a superb stock and as busy as nailers waiting upon their friends. This year the house is making special efforts in the way of Cloaks, and presents many new patterns at prices away down below former rates. In the trimming line they have all the newest and most delicate shades of ribbons, &c. In hosiery and gloves bargains are offered. In neck wear and fine underwear the stock has never been as complete. They are even with all competitors in goo is and low prices.

J. D. Carlisle,

At No. 35 Fifth avenue, tells an anxious public how to make a Christmas gift to every friend. The secret consists in putting their money where it will do the most good at his store. He shows the goods and challenges a comparison of prices. Look at his attractive bulletin given in another column.

JEWELRY.

G. B. Barrett & Co.

In the Jewelry line the wholesale house of Messrs. G. B. Barrett & Co. offers special inducements to the trade. Dealers who are now a little short in stock can fill up again to advantage from the assortment at this house, No. 56 Fifth avenue, second floor. The prices are lower than ever before. The stock embraces Diamonds, Silverware, Watches, Clocks and general Jewelry. The stock has been selected for the holiday trade, and retail dealers will find it easy to replenish any special line of goods at this house.

Geo. W. Biggs.

Mr. George W. Biggs, No. 159 Smithfield street, offers an elegant assortment of jewelry, watches, &c., from which to make a selection. In the line of watches it is unusually varied. In rings there are all kinds, from the plainest to the most ornate,—18 carat fine. The bracelet display would cause the eyes of any lady to shine with renewed lustre. The aged beneficiary would appreciate one of the elegant and stout gold headed canes. In fact every one can be suited in the stock.

W. J. Hamilton.

The jewelry establishment of Mr. W. J. Hamilton, No. 47 Sixth street, is one of the attractive spots on that street for holiday gift purchasers. Mr. Hamilton makes a specialty of fine jewelry, bronzes and statuary, and has some of the prettiest specimens of the latter class of goods that we have ever seen. In the line of fancy French clocks also his stock is especially noteworthy. All his goods are guaranteed, and he is satisfied to sell a good article at a reasonable profit.

T. P. Bedilion.

Mr. T. P. Bedilion, at No. 75 Smithfield street, makes an exceptionally fine display of holiday jewelry. Styles entirely new, consisting of solitaire diamond ear rings, cluster and solitaire diamond finger rings, cameo and onyx jewelry, gold and onyx necklaces and pendants, gold watches, marbles clocks, silver and silver-plated ware, bronzes, etc. Prices exceedingly low, and goods warranted as represented. Mr. Bedilion is a master-workman, and his goods cannot be excelled.

E. DeRoy.

For fine Diamonds E. DeRoy's, No. 153 Smithfield street, is the place to go. Mr. DeRoy is a connoisseur. He has given years of attention to the Diamond trade. He has at present one of the most valuable assortments ever seen in Pittsburgh. The sight of the stock is as good a feast to a lover of precious gems. Mr. DeRoy also exhibits a general line of jewelry, embracing Watches, Rings, Breastpins, Shirt Studs, &c., &c., and he invites an examination of his stock and prices.

Thomas McFadden.

Mr. Thomas McFadden at our Exposition carried off the honors, and a look over his present stock in store, at No. 53 Fifth avenue, attests that he is determined to maintain his reputation. The display of silverware is unequalled. The watch department contains all the best makes. The general jewelry diplay embraces articles from the tiniest ring up to the most massive bracelet. His goods are without a superior and his prices down to the very lowest notch. "Cheaper than the cheapest" is his motto.

J. M. Moffatt & Co.,

No. 123 Fifth avenue, are selling off at greatly reduced rates their stock of watches, jewelry, and silverware. They are anxious to close out the stock at the earliest possible moment, and hence are offering rare bargains. The goods are all of the best character, and the stock is varied to select from.

J. R. Reed & Co.,

No. 93 Market street, invite buyers of Christmas presents to take a look at their stock. They have gold and silverware ornaments for personal adornment or for the home, and a general assortment of watches, clocks, jewelry, card baskets, bracelets, vases, flower stands and silverware. They will sell their goods at the lowest prices, consistent with the quality of the goods, and will warrant every article.

TOYS AND FANCY GOODS.

C. Yeager & Co.

The old headquarters of Kriss Kringle, C. Yeager & Co.'s, No. 110 Market street, is open again as usual, with a stock that fills the store from cellar to attic. In the toy line the United States beat the world, and Yeager is in the front rank. Boys, girls men, women, rich and poor, can find something for gifts in this immense assortment. Old Kriss has opened his pack and showered down the latest novelties. If you are in doubt as to your purchase just make a selection at Yeager's.

J. D. Thompson & Co.

"Hang up the baby's stocking,
Be sure you don't forget,"

sings a sweet bard. But what would be the use of hanging the stocking up if there had not been a visit made previously to J. D. Thompson & Co.'s, Nos. 176 and 178 Wood street, to procure a supply of gifts to fill up the receptacle provided for the family fireside for gifts. Thompson & Co. sell the toys and fancy articles at panic prices,—a hint which the wise will improve.

Geo. W. Backofen.

Mr. George W. Backofen, No. 161 Smithfield street, is prepared to supply all orders for Christmas toys, or decorations for the home or the Christmas tree. Mr. Backofen makes a specialty of Christmas decorations and can supply them at the lowest rates. His stock this year embraces many new and exquisitely beautiful designs which would grace a King's palace. Letters, mottos, gilt paper, evergreenmoss &c., will be found at this store.

HATS, FURS, ETC.

McCord & Co.

If you wish a really useful gift go to Messrs. McCord & Co.'s, No. 131 Wood street, and select a hat or cap for a gentleman, or something in the fur line for a lady. The firm are opening new goods daily. They exhibit now some choice goods in the way of ladies', misses' and children's furs, comprising muffs, sacques, boas, fur trimmings, fur gloves, &c. Their Fur Department is loaded down with the stock, and they will sell cheap. Their assortment is very varied in color, quality and price. Their Hat Department is as good as any on Broadway, New York.

Fleming & Oglevee.

Messrs. Fleming & Oglevee blossom out this year as usual in the fur line, and astonish all visitors by the extent, variety, the prices and the quality of their goods. From the finest otter to the most ordinary squirrell sett may be seen in their display with prices corresponding. Their cloaking department is unusually fine this year. In the hat line they exhibit all their specialties and the latest New York styles in hats and caps. Whatever comes from this house is good and cheap.

Thomas J. Barnes.

Mr. Thomas J. Barnes, at No. 111 Wood street, is ready to supply hats, caps and furs to all buyers, and to guarantee that none can sell the article at a less price. His stock is ample from which to make a selection, and the goods are all perfect and will stand the test.

C. F. O'Dell.

Mr. O'Dell's establishment is located at the corner of Wood and Diamond streets. He buys his hat's, caps and furs direct from the manufacturers, and thus not only secures a first-class article, but saves the middleman's profits, which he divides with his patrons. His stock embraces the latest styles of winter goods, and should be looked at before a purchase is made elsewhere.

MUSIC.

Kleber & Co.

If you want to make the richest music in the house on Christmas day, select your gift at Kleber & Bro's., No. 122 Wood street. If you want a magnificent gift, there is the grand Steinway. If your purse will not reach that take another piano, or one of the unsurpassed Burdett Organs rivalling the Mason & Hamlin. Or even if these are too heavy for your purse, choose a flute, or a harp, or a harmonicum, or some of the smaller musical instruments and so send melody into the home with your gift.

J. Zweidinger.

Mr. John Zweidinger, No. 136 Smithfield street, comes to the front with Christmas gifts in the way of pianos, organs and musical goods generally. He is the only agent for the celebrated Geo. Steck & Co. New York Pianos and the Jubilee Organs. He will allow a liberal discount for cash and will also sell on the monthly payment plan so as to make the purchase an easy one. A gift from his store would be worth something.

S. Hamilton.

If you wish to keep your memory green for all time, with the recipient of a Christmas gift, send one of the far famed sonorous sweet toned Decker pianos from the establishment of Mr. S. Hamilton, No. 87 Fifth avenue. Or one of the Estey organs, might answer the purpose, and in its music the goodness of the giver would be always melodiously embalmed. Mr. Hamilton also has other makes somewhat less expensive, and is ready to sell at panic prices, as he wants to accommodate all. Then there are violins, guitars, harmonichords, harmoicons, flutes, &c. Any of these would be acceptable, and would long last to recall sweet memories of the giver.

C. C. Mellor.

"Music hath charms"—especially so when the music comes from a superb Weber piano, which Mr. C. C. Mellor, No. 79 Fifth avenue, offers to those who wish to make a gift that will last a generation. Then there are the Mason & Hamlin organs, sweet as the music of a celestial choir. Mr. Mellor also has a full line of the smaller musical instruments, embracing violins, guitars, accordeons, flutes, &c. He shows the goods and challenges a comparison of prices. Look at his attractive bulletin given in another column.

BOOKS.

J. R. Weldin & Co.

After all, everybody is pleased with a book; and J. R. Weldin & Co.'s, No. 101 is the place to get one to please them. They have some superb selections of the great poets, and the leading prose writers of this and other generations. The Rime of the Ancient Mariner is a sample. Their gift books are marvels of the art. In romance, poetry, theology and general literature, they have every leading work. Then there are fine Bibles, prayer books, hymnals; and in fancy goods, stereocopes, albums, pens, inkstands, writing desks, &c. It is easy to select from such a stock.

R. S. Davis & Co.

The house of Messrs. R. S. Davis & Co. has always been ranked as a standard book store, and it never more deserved the reputation than now. They invite a call at their store, corner of Fifth avenue and Wood street, where is displayed one of the richest assortments of holiday gift books ever spread on any counter. They have also a full line of exquisitely beautiful Japanese and Morocco goods, writing desks, paper weights, toy books, card racks, &c., for the counting room or the library table. Give them a call.

It is reported that the victorious Cornell boat crew, at the last two Saratoga regattas, would use nothing but B. T. Babbitt's Best Soap. This gives an intelligent explanation of their great success in carrying of the honors from such distinguished rivals. People will do well to follow the example of the Cornell boys.

KRISS KRINGLE COMING.

Where he Wishes his Friends to Purchase Gifts.

The Places at Which he has Left Some Samples from his Pack—Suggestive Hints for Holiday Shoppers.

The full tide of the gift-giving season is upon us; the air is filled with the fragrance of the pine; the laugh and chatter of the the gift buyers is heard on every hand; the thoroughfares are unusually crowded with the gay and beautiful, upon holiday purchases intent; the shop windows are aflame with the brightness of their holiday raiment; and the shopkeepers with the blandest of smiles and the glibbest of tongues and alacrity the most cheerful, extend welcome and dance willing attendance upon those who crowd the marts of trade. Christmas—merriest, happiest, brightest and best of all the holidays—fast approaches, to crown the year; and amid the genial influences of the time, even the veriest old Scrooge gives place in his heart to some pleasant anticipation of the happy day; kindly thoughts hold sway, and even though there be an undertone of sadness over hard times, for the hour this refrain takes a secondary place, and hearts and minds generally are deeply engaged over the perplexingly fascinating problem of what to select for a gift among the multitudes of attractions, and where to secure it to the best advantage. In such a great public emergency it is eminently fitting that the journalist should come to the front—being always equal to the hour—and relieve the distressed by offering suggestions, which will lead them out of all perplexity. If our readers, then, this morning, will follow the scribe's directions, as hereunto annexed, they may feel assured they will secure the most useful or ornamental gifts, and that, too, with the least possible drain upon the exchequer.

DRY GOODS.

Wm. Semple.

A gift in the dry goods line is always acceptable, because it is substantial; and there could be no better place to get this than at the mammoth establishment of Mr. Wm. Semple, Nos. 165, 167 and 169 Federal street, Allegheny. This great house is filled from cellar to roof with the freshest goods of the season, comprising a general assortment of dry goods and toys for the children. Mr. Semple has never exhibited as fine an array, and buyers have never had such bargains offered, even at this house famous for bargains.

James Caldwell & Co.

The display of holiday goods is exceptionally brilliant at the old-established house of Messrs. James Caldwell & Co., corner of Federal street and Park Way. They have opened this week a fresh stock for holiday gifts, comprising in part dress goods, dress silks, muffs and boas, seal sacques, ladies' cloaks, fancy shawls, skirts, housekeeping goods, &c., together with new selections in handkerchiefs, gloves, neckwear and such knicknacks. Every article in this house is of a first-class character, and yet sold at a price within the reach of any purchaser.

Boggs & Buhl.

Messrs. Boggs & Buhl, of 128 Federal street, Allegheny, offer special inducements for Christmas buyers. Some of the silk goods they recently recovered are marked down to $1 per yard. This will give an idea of the bargains to be had at the house. Then there are shawls of all the most beautiful patterns, scarfs, velvet and cloth cloaks in endless variety, dress goods, American and foreign make, fancy goods, domestic goods, gloves, lace goods, handkerchiefs, and an illimitable variety. The purchaser will be hard to please who cannot find satisfaction at Boggs & Buhl's.

White, Orr & Co.

This house, established in 1828, is old in years but young in the affections of its legions of friends. The house has never deserved patronage more than now. The stock of goods is unexcelled anywhere. Bargains are offered especially in the line of seal skin sacques, silk dress goods, embroidery, table linen, artic and elder down quilts, flannels, and a great variety of cloaks and shawls. They exhibit some exceedingly handsome black cashmere dress patterns, in prices from 75 cents upwards. Their prices are on a par with the lowest.

John L. Moorhouse.

The house of John L. Moorhouse, corner of Fourth avenue and Market street, is known to purchasers as a Cloak and Dress Goods Headquarters. There is always here to be found the largest and best class of goods at this house, and this is essentially true of it now. The house is exhibiting some entirely new paitrens in Beaver, Chinchilla and Matalasse cloths of the latest cut at twenty-five per cent. less than regular prices. In Black Cashmeres bargains are offered from 15 to 25 per cent. less than former prices shown. The goods are all warranted and anything coming from the house is reliable.

A. W. Carsten & Co.

The elegant storeroom corner of Market and Liberty streets is fully taken up by Messrs. A. W. Carsten & Co., who find it none too large. They have made special reductions for the holiday trade in Dress Goods, Mourning Goods, Silks, Velvets and Cloaks. There is a very full assortment on hand, and it is considered no trouble to show the goods. Their stock of cloaks is especially noteworthy, and they will not be undersold. The Dress Goods department is unusually attractive. The prices are suitable to the hard times.

Hugus & Hacke.

corner Fifth avenue and Wood street, invite the attention of buyers to their assortment of general dry goods and especially to their display of Silks. They have all the varieties but exhibit some handsome black silks, fit for a Queen. Their general assortment of dry goods is very large and has been selected with great care. In the line of dress goods this house has long had a first-class reputation. They charge only reasonable prices and the purchaser will find this a good house at which to make a purchase.

Miss L. B. Flannery,

at No. 87 Market street, exhibits a very brilliant assortment of silks. All colors and qualities are shown, and the prices are low. There is also in store at this house a fine assortment of Velvets, Velveteens, Irish Poplins, and fine dress goods generally,—some of the Poplins ranging down as low as 75 cents, which is a remarkable reduction.

NOTIONS, TRIMMINGS, ETC.

Joseph Horne & Co.

If the purchaser wishes to enjoy the sight of a fairy bower of splendors while making purchases, that desire can be gratified by a visit to the retail stores of Messrs. Joseph Horne & Co., Nos. 197 and 199 Penn avenue. The beauty of the display is, with the prices, which have been marked down in every department. From a needle to a magnificent Opera cloak may there be had, goods for gentlemen as well as ladies, and every article first-class. Specialties this season are made of cloaks, underwear, gents' furnishing goods, gloves, hosiery, and woolen goods, and there is something new in patterns in every department.

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JEWELRY.

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Mr. George W. Biggs, No. 159 Smithfield street, offers an elegant assortment of jewelry, watches, &c., from which to make a selection. In the line of watches it is unusually varied. In rings there are all kinds, from the plainest to the most ornate,—18 carat fine. The bracelet display would cause the eyes of any lady to shine with renewed lustre. The aged beneficiary would appreciate one of the elegant and stout gold headed canes. In fact every one can be suited in the stock.

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ALLEGHENY COUNCILS.

Special Meeting Last Night—The Ordinance for the Reduction of Salaries Gets Its Death Blow—A New Depot on Federal Street—The Water Extension Again Defeated.

A special meeting of Allegheny Councils was held last night for the purpose of clearing away unfinished business.

SELECT COUNCIL.

ALFRED SLACK.....President *pro tem.*
R. T. WHITE.....Clerk.

When this branch met Mr. Alfred Slack was, on motion of Mr. Hartman, called to the chair, President Patterson being absent. The members present were Messrs. Cochran, Callery, Chambers, Drum, Davis, Eberhardt, Heagy, Huckestine, Hartman, Knox, Kreiling, Lindsay, McRoberts, Slack, Sweeney, Voegtly, Wilhelm and Welte.

On motion of Mr. Voegtly the rules were suspended to take up new business, and he then presented a resolution, at the request of Mr. McKelvey, directing the Mayor to issue his proclamation for a special election in the First ward to fill the vacancy in select Council caused by the resignation of Hon. Thomas M. Bayne. Mr. Voegtly also moved that the action of the previous meeting in agreeing to order no special election until the regular election in February be reconsidered, which was carried. The resolution offered was then adopted.

Mr. Huckestine presented a resolution directing the Controller to inquire into alleged excess of assessments for the county over those returned to the Allegheny Councils, if necessary to employ a clerical force to transcribe the same. In presenting this resolution the gentleman stated that he had been informed that there are over 5,000 taxables from Allegheny City, with a valuation of $2,330,000 on the county tax books, that cannot be found on the city tax books. The resolution was adopted.

REGARDING THE STREETS.

Mr. Voegtly, chairman of the Street Committee, submitted their report. The following printed ordinances, &c., accompanied it:

Resolution authorizing the Street Committee to allow the property owners on Refuge street, from Kerr to Superior streets, to grade and pave the same. Passed.

Ordinance for a lateral sewer on Lindsay alley, from Jackson to Leslie streets. Passed.

Resolution authorizing the vacation of Henry street, between West End avenue and Nixon street. Referred back to the committee.

Ordinance repealing the ordinance providing for the payment of a fee for making connections with public sewers. Passed.

Ordinance for a boardwalk on Davis avenue and the New Brighton road, from the terminus of the brick pavement on McClure avenue to the property of Robert Forrester. Passed.

Ordinance for the grading and paving of Lowry street, from Branch to Roesler streets.—Passed.

Ordinance for the grading and paving of Asylum alley, from the present terminus of the pavement to Taylor avenue. Passed.

Ordinance for the grading and paving of Fremont alley, from Nixon street to West End avenue. Passed.

Ordinance for the relief of the property owners on Charles street, allowing them to pay their assessments in two annual payments, and providing that the city shall issue bonds for the payment of the cost of improving the street. After considerable discussion the bill was passed.

Mr. Voegtly submitted a communication from City Solicitor Rogers, to the effect that the city has no right to build a street from Federal street to Herrs Island, as was suggested at the last meeting. Communication received.

Mr. Callery, Chairman of the Water Committee, presented a printed resolution authorizing the transfer of one thousand dollars from the Contingent Fund to the Water Works appropriation. Passed.

REAL ESTATE CLASSIFICATION.

Mr. Hartman called up the draft of an Act of Assembly for the division of the real estate in the city into two classes for taxable purposes; the first to be the built up portions of the city, and to be assessed full rates; the second class to consist of all rural property and property used exclusively for manufacturing purposes, to be assessed at only two-third rates.

Mr. Drum moved that that part providing for the exemption of well grounds used exclusively for manufacturing purposes be stricken from the act. After a lengthy discussion the motion was lost.

The question then recurred on the passage of the act, which resulted in 9 ayes and 8 nays, therefore the President ruled that the act was not approved.

Mr. Knox, chairman of the special committee on the Fifteenth ward school property, submitted a resolution directing the City Engineer to make out a new assessment on Howard street, in accordance with the plan of the ordinance passed by the committee of Councils. Read and laid over.

On motion of Mr. Voegtly the plan of the change of grade on Harding avenue was approved.

The business from Common Council of last meeting was then taken up and concurred in except the following:

Resolution providing for the placing of an alarm bell on the Good Will engine house, passed in C. C. S. C. non-concurred.

Adjourned.

COMMON COUNCIL.

J. O. S. GOLDEN.....President.
ROBERT DILWORTH.....Clerk.

This Council met at eight o'clock. The gentlemen present were Messrs. Alston, Armstrong, Bedell, Biber, Cooke, Hunter, Hughes, Kerr, Klicker, Landis, Long, Mueller, Moul, Neely, Parkhill, Rano, Shoen, Swindell, Stone, Schmits, Schauer, Susman, Seiling, Wilson, Walker, Wall, and President Golden.

After the minutes of the previous meeting had been read and approved the following new business was presented:

Mr. Alston, remonstrance against a sewer on Ackley alley, in the Second ward.

Mr. Wilson, remonstrance against the opening of Morrison avenue, in the Second ward. Referred.

Also, a resolution for the recognition as a public lamp of the gas lamp erected by James McKee on Soho avenue. Referred.

THE FEDERAL STREET DEPOT.

Mr. Wilson, chairman of the special committee in charge of the matter of a depot for the Fort Wayne railroad on Federal street, presented the ordinance authorizing the Pennsylvania company to use fifteen feet of the common ground along Federal street, and running back 165 feet, Mr. Wilson stating that the building to be erected at the ground which it proposes to cede to the railroad company; that the common ground belongs to the Tin-hot Manufacturing company, and that it could be occupied by any person or corporation. This position was upheld by Mr. Kerr. Mr. Sholes said that he had been informed that there was a clause in the charter granting the railroad company the right of way through the common ground, and that it had also the privilege of using that portion of the South Park referred to in the ordinance; also that an ordinance passed by Councils in 1869 gave the company the right to run that portion of Church avenue west of Federal street. After some further discussion the ordinance was passed finally, twenty-one gentlemen voting yea and five nay. Mr. Reno asked that the following protest against the action be entered on the minutes, which request was granted:

"The undersigned protests against the passage of the ordinance because the fifty feet of ground to be granted to the P. F. W. & C. R. R. is a part of the common grounds belonging and appurtenant to the in-lot holders laid out in the plan of the reserve ground, and also that Councils has no power over the same. The ordinance is illegal and void.

"W. S. Reno."

Mr. Sholes called up the resolution instructing the Committee on Fire Engines and Hose to locate the extra hose carriage of the department at the intersection of Ridge avenue and Rebecca street. It was passed.

A PARLIAMENTARY BREEZE.

Pending action on the above Mr. Reno created a breeze by stating that the seats of Mr. Bedell, of the First ward, who has been elected a Jury Commissioner, and Mr. Hunter, of the Seventh ward, who is alleged to be being living now in the Thirteenth ward, be declared vacant on the ground of the ineligibility of the gentlemen now occupying them. The President declared Mr. Reno's remarks out of order, and intimated that they were of such a personal character as to render them inadmissable.

Mr. Reno next moved that the action of the previous meeting fixing the salary of Dr. Cole, the City Physician, $400, be reconsidered. As he had not voted in the affirmative, the Chair decided his motion out of order. It was Mr. Reno's purpose to make the point that Dr. Cole's salary was not legally increased, because the two-thirds vote requisite to make the extra pay was only secured by the votes of Messrs. Bedell and Biber, who, he says, are not legal members of Council, because the Mayor has refused to pay from the city treasury and the latter does not live in the ward he represents. The Chair declined to hear the point because Mr. Reno had not risen to the affirmative. The latter appealed from the decision, but his appeal was not sustained.

REDUCTION OF WAGES YET.

The ordinance relative to city officers and employes, fixing their compensation, prescribing their duties and abolishing and consolidating certain offices, was taken up, and Mr. Bedell objected to it on the ground that it is an omnibus bill, embracing more than one subject, which is forbidden by law. The chair decided the point well taken, and read from rule 9, which says that "no ordinance shall contain more than one subject, which shall be clearly expressed in its title." The chair further said that the bill provided for the consolidation of certain offices, and fixed the pay of city officers and employes, which he pronounced two distinct subjects, and in view of that fact he declared the bill out of order and directed that it be stricken from the calendar. Thus ends for the present the proposed reduction of salaries.

This act of the President was evidently very displeasing to Mr. Reno, who jumped from his seat and declared that the chair had no power to rule the Council, or words to that effect, he declared he office his resignation. How serious were Mr. Reno would have said can only be conjectured, for the loud rapping of the President's gavel called him to order and he sat down, clearly as disgusted as he ever existed. He subsequently offered his resignation, as follows:

THE REASON WHY.

To the Chairman and Members of Common Council:

GENTLEMEN—I hereby tender my resignation as a member of Common Council on the grounds of not being able to justify myself and constituents on subjects which are debatable by a member. Hoping that it may be accepted, I am, gentlemen,

Yours with Respect,
W. S. RENO,
Member Eleventh Ward.

The resignation was handed to the chair, who did not read it, contrary to the wish of Mr. Reno, but put the question on its acceptance and Council declined to accept it, evidently considering Mr. Reno's services too valuable to be dispensed with.

A resolution for the transfer of $2,500 from the Contingent Fund to the Street and Sewer Fund was adopted.

An ordinance authorizing the refunding of license and bonded debts, which will take $1,700 out of the City Treasury, was also passed.

An ordinance repealing an ordinance passed November 15, 1875, so far as relates to fixing the time for making appropriations to be in the month of April in each year was submitted, and Mr. Reno moved that the rules be suspended and the ordinance that has hardly been one month enacted. The chair stated that the bill of November 8th was adopted under an opinion of the City Solicitor that these Councils would hold over until April, but that the Attorney General of the State had since rendered a decision of the City Solicitor and decided that these Councils would pass out of existence in January. Mr. Reno and Mr. Sholes said that Council had never been officially informed of any such opinion of the Attorney General, and that Council should take no notice of the existence of it. Mr. Reno moved that the bill be indefinitely postponed. This motion was lost and the ordinance was then passed finally.

BORROWING FUNDS.

A resolution authorizing the Treasurer to borrow $50,000 to meet the current expenses of the city government for the remainder of the year was adopted.

A resolution authorizing the transfer of $350 from the Contingent Fund to the Park Commission was also passed.

An ordinance for the relief of property owners on McClure avenue, giving time for payment of assessments, and providing for the issue of bonds to make provision for the payment of the work, was adopted.

A resolution requesting the Committee on Printing to have printed two hundred copies of the report of the experts who tested the duty and capacity of the Lowry pumping engine was offered, and Mr. Lowry presented a paper alleging that the test was made by parties prejudiced against the engine. The paper was laid on the table, and the resolution was indefinitely postponed.

Mr. Sholes called up the ordinance providing for an increased supply of water in the city of Allegheny, which was lost at last meeting on second reading. That action was reconsidered, the bill then passed second reading, and, after a long debate, it was lost again on third reading. This was the bill authorizing the laying of a thirty inch main on North avenue, from Madison avenue to Arch street, for a twenty inch main along the balance of the same avenue, from Arch street to Allegheny avenue, and for a fifteen inch main on Arch street, from North avenue to Perrysville avenue. Mr. Sholes said, "For God's sake, give the people water," but Council couldn't see it.

This branch then adjourned.

INSPECTION OF THEATERS.

Result of the Examination of Pittsburgh Theaters and Public Halls—What the Officials Think of Them—Generally Considered Safe.

It is well known that Fire Marshal Livingstone and Building Inspector Reed have been ever since the fire at the Brooklyn Theater occupying their leisure moments examining our theaters and public halls as regards their means of exit and general safety in case of fire. Their report to Councils was finished yesterday. They say, concerning the Pittsburgh Opera House, that "the building in its internal and external arrangement and construction, is, we think, good, although not fire proof, in the full sense of the term. In the construction of its heavy outer and dividing walls, its iron clad ceiling, and stage arch, and its main exit with unbroken brick walls on both sides, it certainly can lay claim to some of the requisites for such a building. Its modes of ingress and egress are well arranged and we think sufficient. Its lobbies are large and roomy. The heating and lighting arrangements are good and safe—steam and gas being used—the gas being lighted by electricity. The means for extinguishing fire with water, on the stage and among the scenery, consists of the usual appliances for such purposes, added to which are perforated iron pipes, running over and under the stage, covering the stage scenery and the paint and boiler rooms. The gas jets are covered with wire guards, so as to prevent the ties or any part of the stage scenery from coming in contact with the blaze. There is a continuous brick wall between the auditory and the stage, extending to the roof. Mr. Coleman, the owner of the building, will perfect this partition by having a fine wire drop curtain made, working in grooves; in case fire on the stage can be lowered in a moment and thus shut off any danger of its rapid communication to the auditorium before the people in it can have time to get out. All the doors open outward and the windows are provided with iron shutters, wherever needed.

"Library Hall is well located and strongly built, a large amount of money having been expended in its construction to make it fire proof, although not classed as such a building in the full meaning of the term. Its outer and partition walls are heavy, and between all the floors there is a concrete filling. The whole building except the upper floor is heated by steam, the construction and management of this department being very perfect and orderly. The entire upper floor of the whole building is occupied as a lodge by the Knights Templar, and is heated by well-constructed, close sheet anthracite stoves, which we found in perfect order, and when in use always under the supervision of the janitor. The modes of egress and ingress are good and will be largely increased in a short time by the addition of a new fire-proof entrance and exit, seventeen (17) feet wide, opening on Sixth street, a contract for which has been made. The water arrangement and appliances on and above the stage for extinguishing fires are systematic and good. The private boxes have been taken away, thus removing a large amount of wood work and combustible material from contiguity with the stage. A door has been opened from the stage into the Library Room, which affords an increased means of egress from the stage and dressing-rooms for the performers and employes. The lobby is large and roomy. The gas jets are covered with wire screens. All the doors open outward."

The Academy of Music is pronounced all right except the two upper galleries, which will have to be condemned before long, unless they can be used. The Fifth Avenue Theater will not be used as a theater again. The upper gallery of Lafayette Hall will not hereafter be used, and the fourth avenue hallway will be changed, and A. Trimble's the means of egress are sufficient. Changes have been ordered to be made for the protection of dressing rooms. Turner Hall is safe for the purpose for which it is used.

In conclusion the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector submit the following recommendations:

First—That all theatres should have a continuous brick wall between the auditorium and the stage extending to the roof, the stage opening of which should be provided with a wire or sheet iron drop curtain.

Second—That a fire alarm wire be run from the stage to the nearest engine house.

Third—That the aisles be at least four feet wide and never allowed to be obstructed by seats or chairs.

Fourth—That all exits be marked "Regular" or "Special," and the different points of egress from same stated on the programmes, so as to enable visitors to become familiar with the construction of the building.

Fifth—That the opinions of chemists be had as to the efficiency, durability and textile strength, when opposed to fire or great heat, of the ordinary drop curtain painted on the inner side with a preparation of alum.

Sixth—We ask